

# CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL CHURCH.

By W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, M.A., F.S.A.

1. A.D. 604.—Consecration of Justus, as first bishop, by St. Augustine; for Justus a church of stone was built by Æthelbert, King of Kent. To this a college of secular canons was attached by the Bishop, and endowed by the King with "Priestfield" (which still belongs to the church) and other property. No portion of this building is known to remain. Bishop Paulinus was buried in it in 644, Bishop Ythamar in 655, and Bishop Tobias in *Porticu Sancti Pauli* in 726. Probably the cathedral of Justus was a church of basilican type with apse at each end; one containing the high altar, and another the altar of St. Paul.

2. *Inter* 1077–1080.—A strong tower of stone was built by Bishop Gundulf (1077–1108) at the east of the Old English church, probably as a defensive work. It was used as a bell-tower as early as the middle of the twelfth century. The lower portion remains on the north side of the choir.

3. *Circa* 1080.—The Old English church was replaced by a Norman one, built by Bishop Gundulf, for the reception of Benedictine monks who were introduced in 1082, in lieu of the secular canons. The plan of this church was

peculiar. It consisted of a choir and aisles six bays long, a very narrow transept, and a nave (left incomplete) of nine bays. There was no central tower, Gundulf's northern tower, described above, doing duty for it. As this stood detached in the angle of the choir and north transept, it was balanced by the erection of a smaller south tower built in the angle of the choir and south transept. Beneath the eastern two-thirds of the choir was an undercroft, the western half of which still remains, as also do four arches of Gundulf's south arcade of the nave, and parts of his nave-aisle walls. Into this new church the relics of St. Paulinus were translated, and placed in a silver shrine given by Archbishop Lanfranc. This shrine seems to have stood in a small chapel which projected from the centre of the east end of the presbytery.

4. Rearrangement of the choir and completion of the nave, perhaps by Bishop Ernulf (1115-1124). The west front, and the diaper work in the triforium, are of slightly later date than the arcades.

5. 1130.—Dedication of the church.

6. 1138.—Destruction of the church and monastery by fire. Extent of consequent repairs not apparent. Portion of the gable wall of the south transept seems to be of this date, and on the evidence of fragments of mouldings we conjecture that the work was executed by William the Englishman (of Canterbury Cathedral) or one of his school.

7. 1179.—Second destruction of the church and monastery by fire. Extent of damages and repairs unknown. The outer wall of north choir aisle is, perhaps, of this date.

8. *Circa* 1190.—The lower part of the outer wall of the south choir aisle built, as part of a new cloister, by Bishop Gilbert de Glanville (1185-1214).

9. *Circa* 1190.—Commencement of a central tower. Bases of the piers laid, and of the adjoining arches into the aisles; and alteration of choir aisles begun. The whole of this work, however, was only carried up a few feet.

10. *Circa* 1195.—Removal of the eastern half of the Norman undercroft, and of the presbytery above it, and erection of the present undercroft, choir transept, and presbytery.

11. *Circa* 1220.—Rebuilding of the Norman choir by William de Hoo, sacrist, from offerings at the shrine of St. William of Perth (a Scotch baker murdered outside the city of Rochester in 1201, and canonized 1256). New choir first used in 1227. Most of the choir fittings then inserted remain *in situ*. The eastern face of the *pulpitum* is of the same date. Parts of the same work are the eastern piers of the tower, with the arch above, the arches into the choir aisles, and the bay of the transept clerestory immediately over them. The "new work," *i.e.* that of the whole eastern arm, was roofed in and leaded by Priors Radulfus de Ros and Helias.

12. *Circa* 1235.—The great north transept "*versus portam beati Willelmi*" and north-west tower pier built. Begun by Richard de Eastgate, monk and sacrist, and almost completed by brother Thomas de Mepeham (sacrist in 1255).

13. *Circa* 1240.—Destruction of Bishop Gundulf's small south tower, and conversion of south choir aisle into its present form. The upper part of the outer wall is of this work, but the curious lopsided wooden roof belongs to the later alterations of the south transept, *temp.* Edward II.

14. 1240.—Dedication of the church, *i.e.* the choir, by Richard de Wendover, Bishop of Rochester, and Richard, Bishop of Bangor.

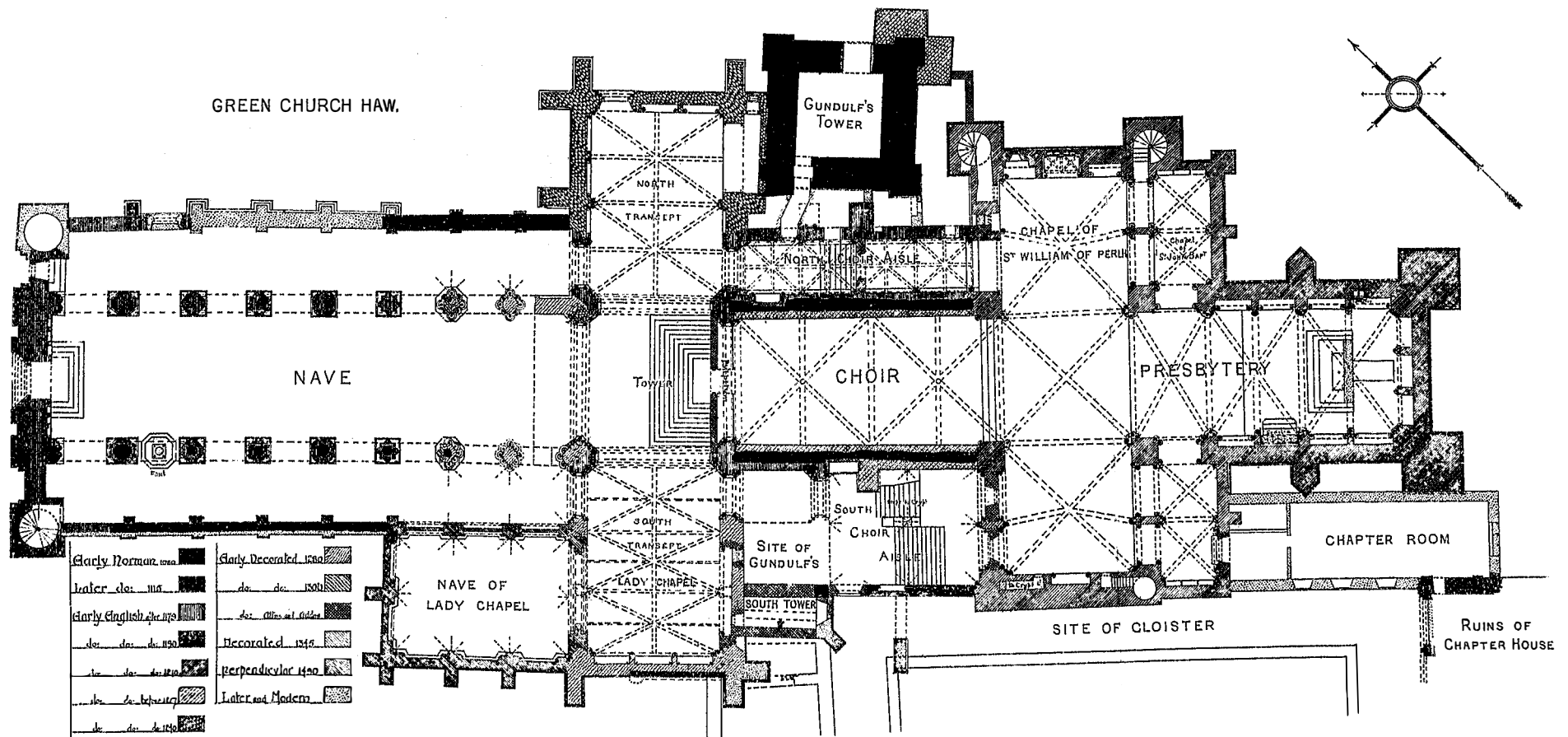
15. Building of the great south-west transept (*alam australem versus curiam*) by Richard de Waldene, monk and sacrist. Also of the south-west tower pier, the south, west, and north arches of the tower, and the two first bays of the nave.

16. *Circa* 1320.—Alterations to clerestory of south transept. Conversion, from two arches into one, of altar recesses on east side of south transept. Apparently *circa* 1320; for the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was in the south transept, is spoken of in 1322 as *de nova constructo*. Building of western side of *pulpitum*, and of screens in north and south choir aisles; also west cloister door, and door at west end of south choir aisle. The rebuilding of nave abandoned, and the junction of Norman and Early Decorated work made good.

# Rochester Cathedral Church.

HISTORICAL GROUND PLAN.

W. H. St John Hope mens. et del.



17. 1327.—Building of an oratory *in angulo navis*, and insertion of the small door in the west front. This oratory was built, by agreement between the monks and the parishioners of St. Nicholas's altar in the nave, for the Reserved Sacrament.

18. 1343.—Central tower raised, and capped by a wooden spire, by Bishop Hamo de Hythe, who placed in it four bells.

19. 1344?—Insertion of Decorated tracery in windows of presbytery. Query in 1344, when Bishop Hamo de Hythe reconstructed the shrines of SS. Paulinus and Ythamar of marble and alabaster. The beautiful door to the chapter-room is apparently of same date.

20. 1423.—Removal of the parish altar of St. Nicholas from the nave (where it had stood probably from at least Bishop Gundulf's time) to a new church built for the citizens in the cemetery on the north side of the cathedral church, called *Green Church Haw*.

21. Building of the clerestory and vaulting of the north choir aisle. Insertion of Perpendicular windows in nave aisles.

22. *Circa* 1470.—Great west window inserted, and the nave clerestory rebuilt with the north pinnacle of the gable.

23. *Circa* 1490.—Westward elongation of the Lady Chapel.

24. 1541.—Construction of the panelled book desks in the choir for the use of the secular canons, singing-men, etc., substituted by Henry VIII. for the monks of the suppressed priory of St. Andrew.

25. 1591.—Destruction of "a greate parte of the chancell" of the cathedral church by fire.

26. 1664.—South aisle of nave recased.

27. 1670.—North aisle of nave partly rebuilt.

28. Rebuilding of north turret of the west front, and lowering of the south turret.

29. After 1779.—Partial demolition of the great north campanile.

30. 1826.—Reparation of the church, and recasing and raising of central tower by Mr. Cottingham.

31. 1850.—New font made.

32. 1872 and later.—Various repairs by Sir George Gilbert Scott.

From the Cathedral the members proceeded to Rochester Castle, which was lucidly described by Mr. Stephen Aveling.

ROCHESTER CASTLE with its extensive outworks occupies 4½ acres of ground. The oldest portion is the RIVER WALL on the west; much of this was built by Gundulf, *circa* A.D. 1076. The great rectangular Keep, 125 feet high, was built by Archbishop Corboil between 1126 and 1139. Its walls are 12 feet thick. The interior of the Keep is divided into two parts by a cross wall 5½ feet thick; beneath the centre of which the well is sunk. A circular pipe 33 inches in diameter passes vertically through the core of that wall from the well to the top of the Keep. On each floor a small arched door opens into this pipe. The south-east turret of the Keep was destroyed by undermining when King John captured the Castle in 1215; it was rebuilt in 1225, when also was erected the fine drum tower in the south-east angle of the curtain wall behind the Keep. The towers along the eastern curtain wall were probably built, at any rate in part, *circa* 1367–1380.

Dinner was served in the New Corn Exchange at 5 o'clock. Sir Walter Stirling, Bart., presided, and beside him were the Mayor of Rochester, Colonel Hughes Hallett, M.P., Archdeacon Cheetham, Rev. Robert Whiston, J.P., Robert Furley, J.P., F.S.A., etc., etc.

From the dinner, members went to the Cathedral, where the talented organist, John Hopkins, Esq., assisted by the singing-men and chorister-boys, gave an hour's musical entertainment, from 7 to

8 P.M. This musical recital was greatly enjoyed by the members, who thence proceeded to the Old Corn Exchange, where a most admirable Museum had been arranged, and to the New Corn Exchange, wherein a *Conversazione* was hospitably given by the MAYOR and Mrs. LEVY, who had invited all the *élite* of the neighbourhood to meet the members. An amateur band discoursed sweet music; and at intervals papers were read—one, by Mr. G. L. GOMME, F.S.A., on *Boley Hill, Rochester*, is printed in this volume; as also is another, by Mr. W. B. RYE, on *The Episcopal Palace and Bishop Fisher*. Mr. ROACH SMITH, F.S.A., also read a paper on *Shakespeare at Rochester*.

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