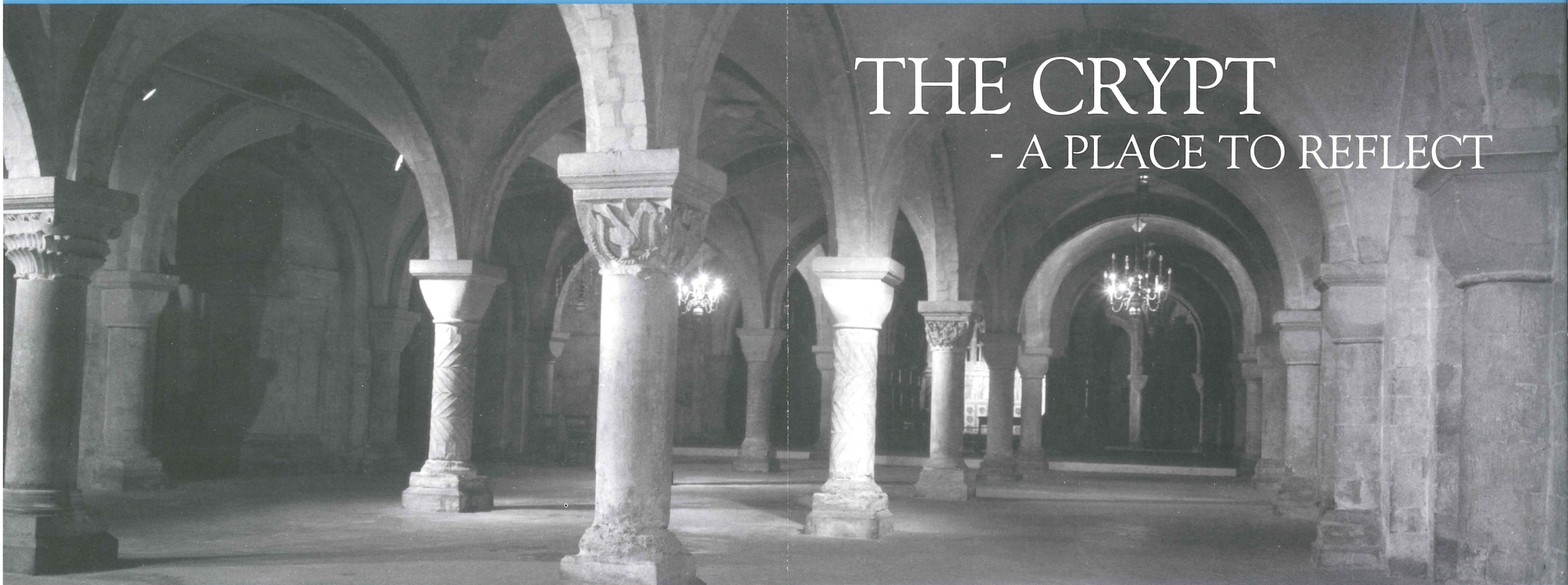




CANTERBURY
cathedral

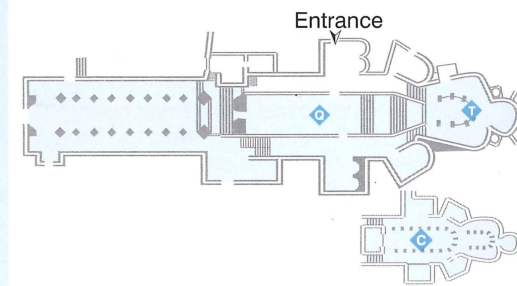


THE CRYPT

- A PLACE TO REFLECT

The Cathedral plays an active role in the community and is regularly used for special Services and events. You are visiting the Cathedral when there are major closures for such events and parts of the Cathedral are not available.

During Nave closures, entrance into the Crypt (and Quire/Trinity Chapel) is via the north side. Walk around the east end of the Cathedral, keeping the building on your left. Entrance into the Crypt is just past the Dean's steps. At times the Quire or Trinity Chapel will also be available for visiting and entrance is via the Dean's steps.



Quire Trinity Chapel Crypt



CANTERBURY
cathedral

For more information, please contact the Visits Office, Cathedral House, Canterbury CT1 2EH, telephone 01227 762862, email visits@canterbury-cathedral.org or visit our website www.canterbury-cathedral.org.

THE WESTERN CRYPT

Built between 1093 and 1130, it is Norman or Romanesque in style with round arches, massive, beautifully carved pillars, a groin vault (no ribs), small windows and little light.

1. In the north aisle, at the western end, marks on the floor indicate the extent of Lanfranc's church (1070-77).
2. **THE CHAPELS OF ST NICHOLAS AND ST MARY MAGDALENE**
3. **THE STATUE OF ST THOMAS** This is a copy of a 15th century statue which was a gift from the people of Sweden in 1930. The original is in a Stockholm museum.
4. **HOLY INNOCENTS' CHAPEL** The baptismal font is still used for baptisms today. Look at the patterned columns and carved capitals.

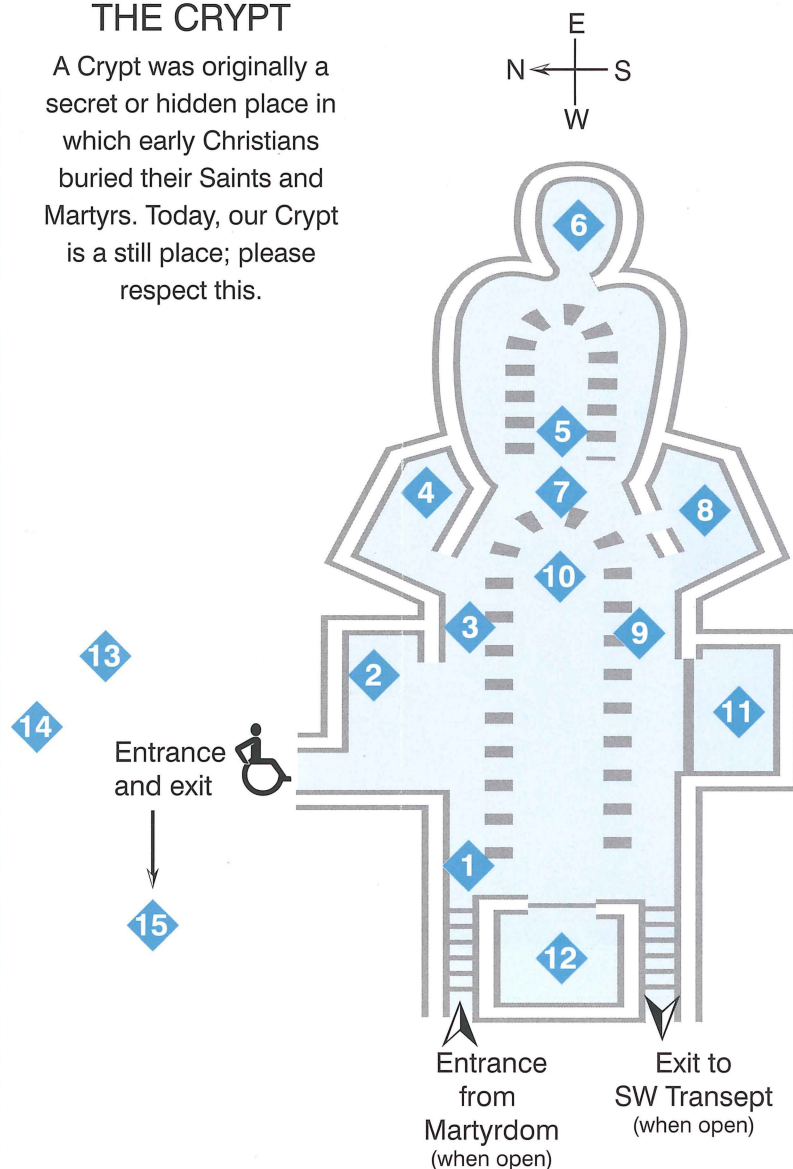
THE EASTERN CRYPT

Built between 1179 and 1184 by William the Englishman as an undercroft to the Trinity Chapel, its style is higher and lighter, reflecting the transition from Norman to Gothic. The many narrow lancet windows illuminate the interior where double pillars support both round (Norman) and pointed (Gothic) arches and dark marble pillars support the ribbed vault of the centre.

5. **THE SITE OF THOMAS BECKET'S FIRST TOMB**
For fifty years after his murder, the tomb of Thomas Becket was sited here (in a much smaller chapel) until his body was translated to the magnificent shrine in the Trinity Chapel above. Ancient graffiti can be traced on some walls.
6. **THE JESUS CHAPEL** This chapel forms the base of the Corona Tower built in 1184. The crowned letters 'M' and 'I' on the restored painted ceiling are the initials of Mary and Jesus in Latin. The glass is 13th century. The altar cloth, designed by Heaton and Baker, was embroidered by the Kilburn Sisters in 1895.
7. **TWO MASSIVE COLUMNS** are seen in the space behind the altar of Our Lady. They were re-used from Anselm's Quire to support the extra weight of the new Quire plan after 1175.
8. **ST GABRIEL'S CHAPEL** Rare 12th century wall paintings that once covered the whole Crypt ceiling. The monument is that of Lady Tryvett (d1431). Note the imaginative carving on the capital of the central pillar.
9. **CARDINAL MORTON'S MONUMENT** The headless and handless saints and bedesmen recall the destruction by Puritan soldiers in 1642. Morton's body (d1500) is buried before the altar.

THE CRYPT

A Crypt was originally a secret or hidden place in which early Christians buried their Saints and Martyrs. Today, our Crypt is a still place; please respect this.



10. **THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY UNDERCROFT** An altar has stood here since 1130. The delicately carved screen dates from c1370, given by the Black Prince in thanks for the dispensation he was granted to marry his cousin Joan (later known as the Fair Maid of Kent). The Black Prince wished to be buried before this altar but the monks insisted that he be buried upstairs in the Trinity Chapel (d1376). The statue of Our Lady is the work of Mother Concordia of Minster-in-Thanel.
11. **THE BLACK PRINCE'S CHANTRY CHAPEL OR HUGUENOT CHAPEL (FRENCH PROTESTANT CHURCH)**
Now the meeting place of the independent congregation of French Speaking Protestants who have worshipped in the Crypt since 1570. The Huguenots were among the refugees who fled from religious persecution in the 16th and early 17th centuries.
12. **THE TREASURY** Houses the plate of the Cathedral and churches within the Diocese. Columns from Lanfranc's Crypt (1070-1077) remain in the west walls.

WATER TOWER AND GREAT CLOISTER

13. **THE WATER TOWER** Exit the Crypt by the north door. Straight in front of you, you will see the 12th century Water Tower, a Romanesque gem once the centre of the monastic water supply. The upper part of the tower was a cistern, supported by finely carved pillars. Originally it did not have windows.
14. **HERB GARDEN** Beyond the Water Tower, on the left, the Cathedral gardeners have re-created a medicinal herb garden amongst the monastic dormitory ruins. The herbs would have been used on a daily basis by the monks.
15. **THE GREAT CLOISTER** Coming out of the Crypt, turn left to visit the Great Cloister (c1400). As you walk around, look at the ornate roof bosses representing a rich array of late medieval English heraldry. You are surrounded by tombstones from people associated with the Cathedral's history. The stone benches have medieval games and graffiti carved into them.

Before you leave, walk around the Cathedral grounds and marvel at the gargoyles, statues and wonderful architecture. Look at the buttresses which support the Cathedral. Note the restoration work that has gone on for centuries. Today we employ 14 full time stonemasons and 7 stained glass conservators who work continuously and with great dedication to safeguard the Cathedral for future generations.