

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BEVERLEY MINSTER



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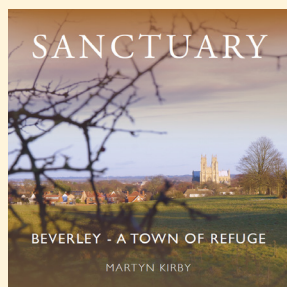
Beverley Minster is steeped in rich history and full of exciting stories. There has been a Christian community on the site of Beverley Minster for over 1300 years. John, Bishop of York founded the first ever community. He later became St John of Beverley, he is widely celebrated and remembered. The site has housed a Norman church which was then followed by the present Gothic church. The Minster became a parish church in 1548 when it ceased to be a Roman Catholic church. Sadly, the building became neglected and was at risk of collapsing. This was prevented by restoration in the 18th century and this restoration continues today by a dedicated team of craftspeople.

Sanctuary and Beverley Minster

In 934, on his way to battle the Scots, King Athelstan visited St John's tomb. He later credited his victory in battle to St John and in 938 he returned to Beverley and granted a "right of sanctuary" which extended two miles from the tomb of St John. This meant that fugitives of the law could come and seek safety at the Minster.

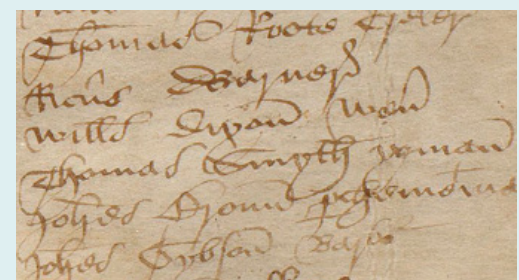
For more information about sanctuary at Beverley Minster please visit our website www.beverleyminster.org/sanctuary/sanctuary-project

Our book 'SANCTUARY, Beverley - a town of refuge' is available to buy from the Minster website online shop.



TIME LINE

- **693**
King Ina confirmed that churches could give sanctuary
- **c 706**
Bishop John of York founded a monastery on the site of the Minster
- **714**
John retired to the monastery
- **721**
John died and was buried in the 'Chapel of St Peter'
- **c 934**
King Athelstan visited John's tomb to pray for victory in battle
- **937**
Tradition has it that King Athelstan bestowed privileges on Beverley, including the right of sanctuary
- **1037**
John was formally recognised as a saint
- **1190-1400**
The present building in the Gothic style was built
- **1296**
A new shrine was commissioned for St John's remains
- **1478 - 1539**
Records of fugitives were kept in a 'Sanctuary Book*'
- **1531**
Rights of sanctuary were drastically curtailed
- **1534**
Henry VIII was made Supreme Head of the Church by an Act of Parliament. John's shrine was robbed and destroyed
- **1540**
Rights of sanctuary were dissolved in Beverley
- **1624**
Rights of sanctuary were abolished



*An extract from the Sanctuary Book currently in the British Library.