

**SOUTHWELL MINSTER**  
*The Cathedral & Parish Church  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
**GUILD of STEWARDS**

FACT  
SHEET  
No. 54

THE OUTSIDE OF THE MINSTER AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Jes Hall 10.6.95

This Fact Sheet is supplementary to Fact Sheet No.12, which is on the carvings on the outside, and only deals with other matters.

WEST FRONT

Notice the slope of the West walk and the view of the surrounding prebendal houses, especially Sacrista Prebend, with its link with the choir.

West front itself dates from c.1150, being the last part of the Norman church to be completed - hence transitional arcading on the South West tower.

The slit windows in the towers, which are original, do not match each other, but the larger window in the third stage of the South West tower is not original, but was put in by Ewan Christian.

Great West window c.1450, we do not know what it replaced.

NORTH SIDE

Porthole windows in the clerestory found in no other Cathedral, and only one other parish church (St. James, Avebury).

Righthand nave window (westernmost) the only original one remaining: compare the condition and quality of molding with C19 window to its left.

Small rectangular windows lighting the triforium are unusual.

Parvise Room over the porch accessible only from the triforium - strong defensive element in Norman building plan.

C15 windows in eastern end of nave wall necessitated lowering the zigzag string course and making new vertical sections to match.

North Transept originally had a door in the north wall, probably leading to the shrine of St. Eadburgh Pilgrims Chapel, Chapter House and Quire - see Fact Sheet '12.

EAST END

Isothermic double glazing of East window recently completed, with phosphor-bronze glazing bars instead of iron.

View of Vicars' Court and Residence: Residence older than the four other houses, with a false front put on to match them.

SOUTH SIDE

Spiral staircase off the candle chapel, one of 6 in the Minster. Entrance hidden by petitions board.

East face of tower shows pitch of original Norman Quire roof, much steeper than present one.

South Transept - archway in east all originally led to library now demolished Flying buttresses a later addition - up to 100 years after Quire was built.

State tombs of First 2 Bishops (Ridding and Hoskyns) and their wives.

South door - C19 replacement sections machine cut.

South side of Nave - two westernmost windows put in after Booth Chapel demolished.