



COLLECTIONS

*A treasure trove spanning
almost 2,000 years
of history.*

YORKMINSTER.ORG



THE 300,000 OBJECTS THAT MAKE UP OUR COLLECTION EACH TELL FASCINATING STORIES ABOUT YORK MINSTER'S PAST AND PRESENT.

From textiles to silver, books to archaeology, our objects were brought here to enhance or understand our faith. Many are still used today and surround you when you enter the Minster.



The Collection is divided into three areas:

OBJECTS

The objects in our collection are diverse. From the semaphore saints who sit above the West Doors to Anthony Babington's rosary on display in the Undercroft. Our oldest objects date back to the Roman Fortress that sat on this site almost 2,000 years ago.

We are working hard to share these objects with you. Our collections and our catalogue are always growing, so please keep coming back. The catalogue can be found at www.calmview.eu/yorkminster

LIBRARY

Our library is the largest cathedral library in the country, with just over 90,000 volumes. It holds the historic printed collections of the Chapter of York dating back to 1470s, as well as being a modern reference and lending library.

Our books cover a wide range of subjects including local history, early York printing, Civil War tracts, theology through the ages, church history and architecture. Modern books include theology and the history of the Minster and the city. You can search our online catalogue via the University of York or via Copac, a website which contains the holdings of the UK's national libraries.

[Click here for more info](#)

ARCHIVES

Our collection of records and manuscripts date back to the year 1,000, and occupy a kilometre of shelving. We hold the records of the Chapter of York including the fabric rolls which list how the Minster was built.

We also hold prints, plans and drawings of the building and surrounding land. Our manuscript collection spans 1,000 years, with examples on display in the Undercroft including the York Gospels. Not all of our collections are online yet but you can see a list of our holdings and finding aids on page 10 and 11.



SERVICES

BORROWING PRINTED BOOKS

For an annual fee of £30, you can borrow up to 6 books at a time for 4 weeks (these can be renewed if not requested by another user).

University of York staff and students, members of the York Minster community, staff and volunteers have free access to this service after registering. If you are a student from another UK university you can apply for SCONUL access through your host institution.

To register

Come to the Reading Room Helpdesk with two forms of ID showing your name, address and signature (e.g. passport, driving license, utility bill). The registration process will take around 5 minutes.

Payments

In person, we ask for cash or cheque (made payable to "The Chapter of York"). Unfortunately we cannot take card payments, but we can raise an invoice so you can pay by bank transfer.

Returning books

Minster Library items can be returned to the University Library or the King's Manor Library.

Items borrowed from the University Library and the King's Manor Library can be returned to the Minster Library.

APPOINTMENTS

If you would like to book an appointment to see an object, archive or library 'Special Collections' item, please email collections@yorkminster.org giving at least 24 hours' notice.

Appointments can be made Monday – Friday from 9:30am and must finish by 4:45pm (4:30pm on Fridays) subject to availability and charges may be applicable, please see page 6 for details.

IMAGES

Self-service, staff or professional photography is available for some of our collection, charges can be found on page 6 and 7.

A form must be completed in the Reading Room Helpdesk before self-service imaging can take place, please enquire in the Reading Room Helpdesk or via collections@yorkminster.org.

All self-service photography is subject to copyright and other conditions made on appointment, and is for private or research use only. Payment is by cash or cheque only.

Please be aware we do not have York Print Plus facilities.

RESEARCH

If you are unable to visit us we can do the following kinds of research for you:

- Search the catalogues of printed books and artefacts
- Examine books printed in English
- Examine artefacts
- Search the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials
- Search the Yorkshire Biographical Database

Please see page 6 and 7 for details of research charges which includes the time taken to write up the research and is subject to a minimum charge. This is payable in advance but clients are billed in arrears for additional time spent at their request.

Should you wish to use the research service, please email collections@yorkminster.org and we will send you an enquiry form.

KING'S BOOK OF YORK HEROES

The King's Book of York Heroes can be searched and a digital image of an entry can be requested by emailing collections@yorkminster.org, please see page 7 for prices.

CHARGES

APPOINTMENT CHARGES

Prices (Inc. VAT)

Individual Archive & Objects Reader's Tickets

Day	£10.50
Week (5 day visits, consecutive or non-consecutive, to be used within a year)	£30.00

Friends of York Minster, Students not attending University of York

Day	£8.00
Week (5 day visits, consecutive or non-consecutive, to be used within a year)	£22.50

Minster / YGT Staff, Minster Community, Minster Volunteers, University of York Staff and Students, Members of Depositor Organisations

Year	£0.00
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Group Reader's Ticket (Day)

£42.00

We offer free access to Library Special Collections and will require you to register.

IMAGING CHARGES

Prices (Inc. VAT)

SELF-SERVICE PHOTOGRAPHY

Photocopying

A4 Black and White	£0.20
A4 Colour	£0.60
A3 Black and White	£0.30
A3 Colour	£0.90

Digital Copying

Self-service Photography per Image	£1.00
Self-service Photography, Day Permit	£10.00
Self-service Photography, Week Permit (or 5 Visits)	£25.00

STAFF / PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Staff Photography

Per image	£1.00
(minimum order)	£3.00
Handling charge	£10.00

Professional Photography

Per image	£3.10
Handling charge	£10.00
Fee for arranging professional photography	£24.20

PRINT / ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF COPIES

(per image)

There may be a fee involved for publishing images and a form will need to be completed, please email collections@yorkminster.org for further information.

Commercial publications	£59.35
Private publications for sale	£16.50
Charity publications / unpublished works	No charge

RESEARCH SERVICE

First 30 minutes (minimum charge)	£15.00
Per additional 30 minutes	£15.00

KING'S BOOK OF YORK HEROES

Per image	£17.50
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Please be aware that non-EU clients will be charged the net amount for the research service, digital copies and the publication of copies.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The collection we look after requires special care and attention, so we have to apply the following rules for the use of the Reading Room and appointments:

- Requests to consult original material must be made by letter or email and include the reference codes of the items requested if known.
- All readers will need to complete a Registration Form and bring identification to the helpdesk, and most readers will need to pay a fee.
- There will be no access to material which is or which forms part of an item which is less than 30 years old from our records collection.
- Due to the sensitive nature of the materials there may be restrictions on the number of items you can consult at any one time.
- Coats, bags, laptop cases and briefcases are not permitted in the Reading Room. Please leave these items in the free lockers provided at Reception.
- No food or drink of any description is allowed in the Reading Room, including bottled water, gum, throat lozenges and cough sweets.
- Please ensure your hands are clean and that you have not recently applied hand cream. Gloves will be provided for objects that require them.
- When using old or fragile items, book rests must be used. A staff member will set this up for you and offer advice on handling.
- Please do not lean on books or hold them open: weights will be provided to support pages.
- Do not mark items in any way.
- Only use pencil or a laptop to take notes.
- Use acid-free paper slips to mark pages and follow text.
- When you have finished with appointment items, please inform a member of staff.

Acceptable forms of identification

Proof of your name. A valid:

- Passport
- Driving licence
- Bank or credit card
- NUS or ISIC card
- Letter from the Chapter Clerk confirming you are a member of the Minster Community
- Friends of York Minster card
- Valid University of York library card
- Proof of membership of a depositor organisation

Proof of your address:

- Utility bill
- Bank/building society statement
- Passport with address (where the address has been officially entered by the issuing authority)
- Driving licence with address

Please note the following:

- All bills and statements must have been issued within the last three months.
- If your identification is in a language other than English you must bring an official translation.
- Each time you request a new Reader's Ticket you will need to show the required identification.



ARCHIVES FINDING AIDS & HOLDINGS

FINDING AIDS HOLDINGS

Most of the finding aids to the record and manuscript collections have not yet been published and are only available to search at the Old Palace. The following published finding aids are available:

Katherine M. Longley's 1977 guide to the archives is included in the National Archives Discovery search facility.
[Click here for more info](#)

The Yorkshire manorial documents among the Dean and Chapter's archives, the Additional Manuscripts Collection, and the Hailstone Collection are included in the Manorial Documents Register.
[Click here for more info](#)

Music manuscripts have also been catalogued in David Griffiths', A Catalogue of the Music Manuscripts in York Minster Library, which is also available in the Old Palace Reading Room.
[Click here for more info](#)

The York Minster Archives includes records from the following organisations:

Archives of Organisations

- Dean and Chapter of York (c.1150-)
- Vicars Choral of York Minster (1252-1936)
- Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers (1757-)
- Archbishop Holgate's School, York (1786-1977)
- York College for Girls (1827?-1997?)
- Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society 1840s-20th cent.)
- Purey-Cust Nursing Home, York (1880-1984)
- York Diocese Girls Friendly Society (1881-1971)
- Friends of York Minster (1912?-)
- Trustees of St William's College, York (1921-)
- York Diocesan Clergy Refresher Course (1922?-76)
- United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel: York Women's Fellowship (1933-87)
- York Diocesan Church Choral Association (1933-98)
- York Glazier's Trust (1939?-)
- Sorooptimist International of Malton and District (1980-)
- York Millennium Mystery Plays Board (1997-2000)
- York Minster Community (2006-)

Archives of Bishops of York

- Thomas Lamplugh (17th-19th cent.)
- John Sharp (1707-1889)
- William Thomson (1842-95)
- Cyril Forster Garbett (1688-1956)
- Stuart Yarworth Blanch (1974-85)

Personal Papers

- William Camidge (1797-1916?)
- Thomas Tertius Noble (1855-1967)
- A.A.R. Gill (1915-38?)
- P.M. Stell (1931?-99)
- Eric Gee (1970-84)
- Phyllis Richardson ([1985]-2003)

Photographic Holdings

- Evelyn Collection (York) (19th-20th cent.)
- Green Collection (York Minster) (1860-1986)
- 'Main Photographic Collection' (York Minster and related) (1880s-1999?)
- Behind the Scenes (York Minster) (20th cent.)
- Image Licensing Files (York Minster) (20th cent.)
- Loan Collection (York Minster and related) (20th cent.)
- Microforms (mainly material from York Minster Library and Archives) (20th cent.-2003)
- Royal Visits Slides (York Minster) (20th cent.)
- Treasures collections (York Minster) (20th cent.)
- Architectural Photographs of York Minster (bef. 1904-83)
- Photographs of Religious Buildings, Castles, and Windmills (Yorkshire and non-Yorkshire) (1920-49)
- Special Services (mainly English churches, incl. York Minster) (1920s-74)
- History-of-the-Minster Slides (1984?)
- (York Minster) Fire [and restoration] Slides (1984-88)
- Images Taken by National Monuments Record (incl. York Minster windows) ([19]88)
- York Minster Library and Archives Slides (2002)

Audio-visual Holdings

- Audio-visual (mainly York Minster) (mid 20th cent.-c.2005)

Illustration Collections

- Biographical Prints (Yorkshire persons) (1493-mid 20th cent.)
- Topographical Prints (Yorkshire) (17th-20th cent.)
- Non-Yorkshire Topographical Prints (1778-1850)
- Lack Collection (rubblings of English brasses) (20th cent.)

Other Document Collections

- Additional Manuscripts (c.1000-2003)
- Manuscript XVLs (11/12th-19th cent.)
- Hailstone Collection (relates to Yorkshire; documentary part only: published books in Library) (12th-19th cent.)
- 'Private Accessions' (1455-1993)
- Manuscript Music (associated with York Minster) (16th-20th cent.)
- Crown Calendars (York Assizes) (1755-1842)
- Seal Casts (religious and secular; English) (19th-20th cent.?)
- York Minster Fires Collection (1829-1994)



CONTACT US

The York Minster Collections Team are situated in the Old Palace, number 4 on the below precinct map.

The Old Palace is open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm



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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Main Entrance | 7. Learning Centre |
| 2. Minster Shops | 8. York Glaziers Trust |
| 3. Chapter House Yard | 9. York Minster Works Department |
| 4. Old Palace | 10. Minster School |
| 5. Church House | 11. Masons' Lodge |
| 6. St William's College | |

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