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# St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, West Wales



Eglwys Gadeiriol Tyddewi



St Davids Cathedral



# The History of St Davids Cathedral

- Built upon the site of St David's 6th century monastery St Davids Cathedral has been a site of pilgrimage and worship for many hundreds of years and remains a church serving a living community. This community is represented not only by the people of the parish of St Davids but by all who find peace in this place of prayer and devotion.
- There are at least three services said or sung per day, each week, with sung services on five out of seven days.





- **c.589/601** St David dies having founded a monastery at the current cathedral site.
- **645-1097** St Davids (Menevia) is attacked and destroyed many times
- **9th century** King Alfred summons help from St Davids in rebuilding the intellectual life of Wessex.
- **999** Bishop Morgenau killed by Vikings
- **1080** Bishop Abraham killed by Vikings
- **1081** William the Conqueror visits St Davids to pray
- **1089** David's shrine vandalized, stripped of precious metals.
- **c.1090** Rhigyfarch writes "Life of David" highlighting David's sanctity.
- **1115** Bishop Bernard appointed by King Henry I.
- **1123** Bishop Bernard secures a "privilege" from Pope Calixtus II. St Davids becomes a centre for pilgrimage.
- **1131** Bishop Bernard "dedicates" a new cathedral.
- **1171** Henry II visits.
- **1181** Present cathedral begun
- **1220** Collapse of the "new tower"
- **1247/48** Building damaged by an earthquake





- **1328-47** Gower's episcopate: rood screen and Bishops Palace built.
- **1365** St Mary's College built.
- **1509-22** Edward Vaughan's episcopate: Holy Trinity Chapel built.
- **1530-40** Nave roof and ceiling constructed.
- **1538** Bishop Barlow strips St Davids shrine of its jewels and confiscates the relics of St David and St Justinian in order to counteract "superstition".
- **c.1540** Edmund Tudor's tomb placed in front of the high altar.
- **1648** Much of the building destroyed by Parliamentary soldiers.
- **1793** West Front rebuilt by Nash.
- **1862-77** Sir George Gilbert Scott's restoration.
- **1901** Lady Chapel restored.
- **1900-1910** Remaining eastern chapels restored.
- **1982** Queen Elizabeth II distributes the Royal Maundy.
- **1989-90** Celebration of the 14th centenary of St David's death.
- **1993** St David's Day celebrations with th Prince of Wales.
- **1995** Queen Elizabeth II confers city status to St Davids.
- **2004-07** New Cloisters built

Source: <http://www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk/index.php?id=760>





