

To Our Visitors

The architecture of Crowland Abbey speaks to us of a certain time in history: the Middle Ages. The beauty and the strangeness of this historical period fascinates us and draws us to places such as this church. As you wander around the Abbey both inside and outside, I would remind you that the real purpose of its architecture is to transport us beyond the bounds of time, be it the present moment or the medieval past, to that which is timeless: to God, who exists beyond time and space in eternity.

The real point of the Abbey's architecture is to create a space which draws us to God, to that which is eternal, in prayer. Prayer is the beating heart of Crowland Abbey; it is what brought it into being and what continues to give it life. Saint Guthlac, a hermit monk, came to Crowland in the seventh century because he wanted a solitary place in which to pray, a place without any distractions. It has been a place of prayer ever since. Prayer is what has given its old stones a certain timeless quality, one noticed by many of our visitors: the quality of holiness.

During your time here I hope that you may sense this holiness, which is none other than God's holy presence. God can be encountered in any place. But I believe that the prayers offered over the centuries in places such as Crowland has set them apart as places where God is especially accessible. If you find that you have sensed this holiness, take the time to let it bless you by pausing to pray. Speak to God of what is on your heart, and seek his forgiveness, comfort, and strength. But take the time also to thank him for the good things in your life and to ask him to give help to others. As you do so, remember that we should pray, above all, for God's good and loving will to be done. Such prayer enables us to do our part in making this world a better and a more holy place. Such prayer will add to the holiness of this place and will enable you to leave this place a better person.

May the holy God of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

Charles Brown
Priest-in-charge

Crowland Abbey

Worship Services

Sundays 7.45am

Holy Communion

11am

Holy Communion (Sung)

5pm

Evening Prayer

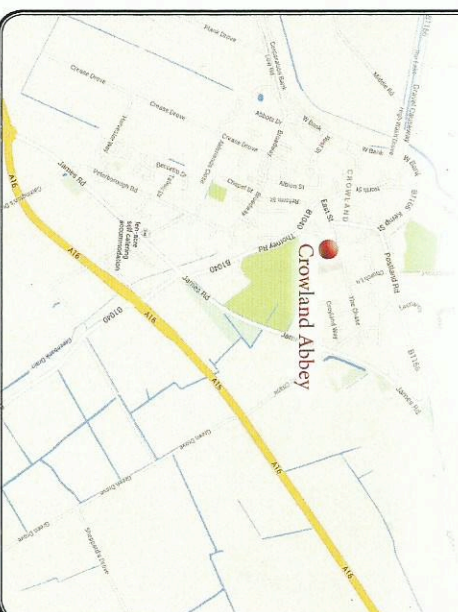
Wednesdays 5pm

Holy Communion

Priest-in-charge:

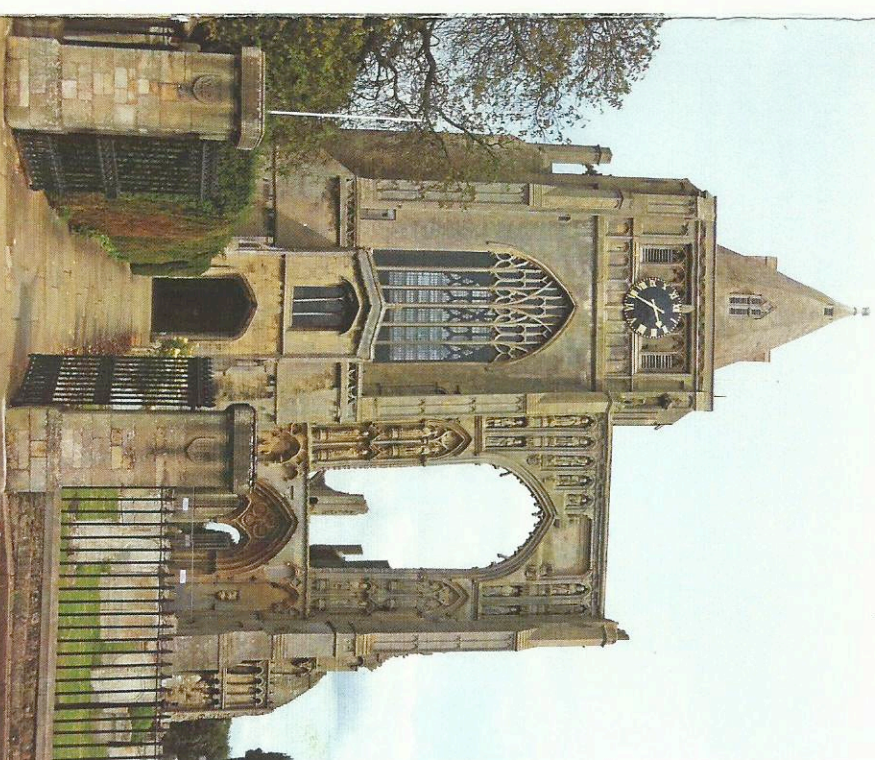
The Revd. Charles Brown

Telephone 01733 211763



Map courtesy of Google Maps

Crowland Abbey



A brief guide to the Church

Plan of Crowland Abbey

1. The Bell Tower

Note the bell ropes, which are among the longest in England; the medieval stone coffin lid; the memorial to master mason William of Warmington; and the Norman baptismal font (c.1120).

2. The New Rooms

Completed in 2006, they give extra space in which to explain the Abbey's history and provide hospitality to our visitors.

3. The Abbey Chest

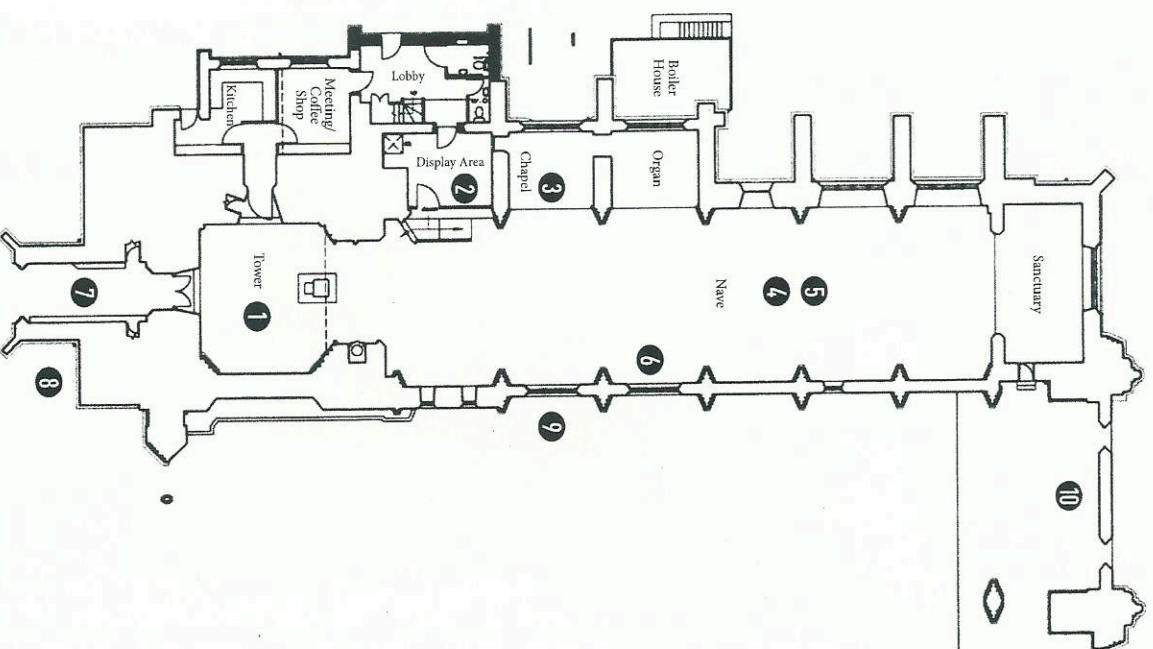
Once used for storing valuables, this chest dates from the Middle Ages.

4. The Chancel Screen

Made in the 15th century, it contains traces of its original gilding and colouring and some interesting carvings.

5. The Green Man

The Green Man was originally a pagan symbol.



6. The South Window

It depicts the patrons of Crowland Abbey: the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Bartholomew, and Saint Guthlac.

7. The Porch

The porch contains a room above, in which the priests of the Abbey who served after 1539 once lived and a cell in which criminals who had sought refuge in the Abbey were once locked.

8. The West Front of the Ruined Nave

It dates from the 13th century. The statues depict persons and saints associated with the Abbey's early history. The quatrefoil above the central door shows scenes from the life of Saint Guthlac.

9. Original Foundations

10. The Crossing

To the east of this dog-toothed arch would have been the chancel of the original church with a choir capable of seating 100 monks. The high altar within the chancel contained a shrine to Saint Guthlac.