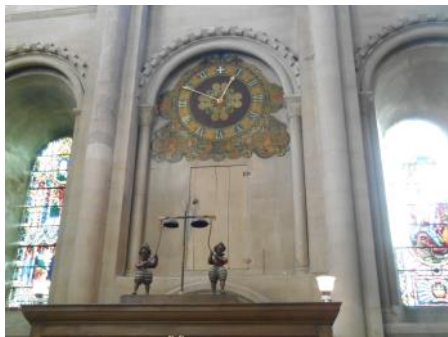




THE
NORWICH
SOCIETY

Churches and Cathedrals Clocks and Sundials Trail

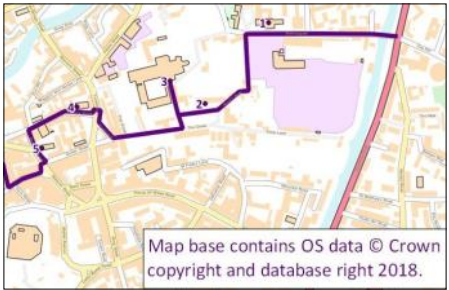
This walk takes you east to west, starting at Bishop Bridge and ending at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, visiting eleven locations with clocks or sundials. It is one of three trails to help you explore Norwich's publicly-viewable clocks and sundials.



Travel

Buses 23 and 24 run from the City Centre to Bishop Bridge and stop just beyond on Bishopbridge Road. Alternatively the bridge is less than 10 minutes walk from the railway station : there is a pleasant path on the west bank on the river.

From opposite the Catholic Cathedral bus 26 runs back to the City Centre and the railway station.



A publication “Telling The Time in Norwich”, which includes details of more than 50 publicly-viewable clocks and sundials in the city, is available on the Society’s website.

1 St. Helen (Great Hospital) clock

Start from Bishop Bridge. Walk along Bishopgate to St. Helen's church.



St Helen's church is unusual, in that it is part of the Great Hospital complex. The original St Helen's church was on the other side of the road, but was later demolished. Part of the hospital church then became St Helen's church, with other parts serving as part of the hospital, some of which can occasionally be visited. The Hospital has been providing care for the poor and elderly since 1249.

2 Cathedral Close sundial

Opposite the gates to the Great Hospital courtyard gates give access to a hedged path. Follow this, going right at the end to reach the lower green in the Close. Here on the right is the sundial at no 53.



The present sundial can be dated, as the house, known as Dial House, collapsed when undergoing renovation work in 1903, and was subsequently rebuilt. Nothing is known about the earlier dial from which the property derived its name.

3 Cathedral clock

At the far end of the green the Cathedral Clock is visible on the south transept.



This is the only clock with different external and internal faces (see first page for picture of the internal clock). It was integrated into the restoration of the South Transept in 1830. It is manual and still wound weekly by one of the vergers. There are references to clocks in Cathedral records as far back as the 13th century. The jacks below the internal face were made in the seventeenth century.

4 St. George Tombland clock

Go through the car park by the Hostry and then through the Ethelbert gate ahead. Then bear right across Tombland to the traffic light crossing just to the left and go up Princes Street to St. George Tombland.



The clock was made by John Christian of Upper Market Street in Norwich and bears the date of 1786. It was restored in 2008 with the chime re-instated. The church's origins go back to at least the 15th century and it is still in use for worship.

5 St. Michael at Plea clock

Continue along Princes Street, past St. Peter Hungate church, then turn left into Redwell Street to St. Michael-at-Plea church on left.



The clock, which has a pink and gold dial inscribed 'Forget-Me-Not', was installed by W.R. Bullen in 1889 to replace an earlier clock which "for years has been useless". The dial has a date of 1827. The clock was restored in the 1990s under a joint project between the Norwich Society and the Historic Churches Trust.

6 St. Andrew clock and sundial

Cross at the lights, then go ahead along London Street. At the next junction go right down St. Andrew's Hill, turning left by the side of the Bridewell to St. Andrew's church.



St Andrew is the only building in Norwich with both a clock and a sundial. The church was completely rebuilt in 1506 and contains one of the finest collections of monuments in the city. It is still in use for worship. The clock was supplied by Dixon of Norwich 1883.

7 St. John Maddermarket sundial

Turn left up Bridewell Alley. At the end turn right into Bedford Street, crossing Exchange Street to go up Lobster Lane to St. John Maddermarket.



Now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, the church of St John the Baptist, Maddermarket takes its name from the yellow flower which produced madder or red vegetable dye, marketed in this area. Nothing is known about the history of the sundial, which is in poor condition.

8 St. Gregory clock

Continue along Pottergate, then down St. Gregory's Green to St. Gregory's church.



Entries in the churchwarden's accounts c.1600 show that there was an astronomical clock. The present clock was restored in the 1990s under the joint project between the Norwich Society and the Historic Churches Trust. The church was rebuilt in the 14th century, and has some very fine 15th century wall paintings. It is in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust, and is leased for use as an antiques centre.

9 St. Lawrence clock

Continue past the church to St. Benedict's Street, going left to St. Lawrence church on the other side of the road.



The clock is believed to be one of the oldest clocks in Norwich and to have come originally from Binham Priory in North Norfolk. It came to St Lawrence in 1894. A dead beat escapement was added c.1900. It is now in poor condition. The church has been under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust since 1992.

10 St. Giles clock

Opposite St. Lawrence go up St. Lawrence Lane. At the top go right, then immediately left into Fisher's Lane, continuing through a gap to St. Giles Street. Here turn right to St. Giles Church.



First mentioned in 1712, the clock was restored, recoloured and repositioned lower in the tower in 1865-6. The church has the tallest church tower in Norwich and is positioned on the highest ground. It is still in use for worship.

11 Catholic Cathedral sundial

Go past the church and into Upper St. Giles. At the end go right and across the bridge over Grapes Hill. Cross the road to the Cathedral. The Narthex is behind the Cathedral (open during the day) and offer refreshments : the sundial is in its garden.



The sundial is believed to be the only horizontal sundial in a public place in Norwich. In Victorian Gothic Revival style and completed in 1910 as a parish church, it became a cathedral in 1976.

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