

St Oswalds

-Church **Founded about 890 by Aethelflaed & Aethelred**. Area probably used as burial place previously, remains of elaborately carved crosses excavated, now in Museum.

-**Secular priests** Performed daily rituals of prayers & psalms. Not monks, lived according to no special Rule, probably allowed to marry.

Probably ministered to Royal palace and local people of Kingsholm and to tenants of the priory's extensive landholdings (endowments given to support church & clergy).

-**909 Aethelflaed & Edward retrieved bones of Oswald**, (7c king of Northumbria and first king in Britain to be canonised) from Lincolnshire, then within Danelaw. Buried on this site. Coup, became site of pilgrimage, rich and famous, wall paintings and embroidered hangings- The Golden Minster.

-**Aethelred and Aethelflaed both chose to be buried on this site**, (? next to bones of Oswald at E end church) but despite extensive excavations, no trace of bones. Extravagant tomb lid in Glos museum ?? royal.

-**Early 11c some of endowment lands confiscated by King Cnut**, ended up in hands of Archbishop of Canterbury and later Archbishop of York. As Glos at this time part of diocese of Worcs, over the years led to many conflicts with detrimental effects on priory.

-**Further decline after Norman Conquest** and rise of St Peter's Abbey. Saxon palace replaced by Norman castle.

-**1153 Refounded as Augustinian Priory**. Augustinian priests were known as canons, referred to as **Canons Regular**, regular meaning that they followed a Rule- the Rule of St Augustine. **Vocation in clerical and parochial duties**, known for scholarship.

Lived communal life but no vow of poverty. Site transformed into standard design for priory with cloisters (hedges), accommodation and other buildings, but could not compete with Llanthony Secunda (1137?) which became v wealthy.

-Always poorest and least important of priories in Glos. Surprising as founded by Royal Charter and housing relics of greatest royal saint of Anglo Saxon England.

- After Dissolution became parish church of St Catherine.

- Badly damaged by Royalist bombardment during siege of Glos 1643

Remains

-N arcade of the church nave. Features from 10c-16c. Rounded arches Norman 12c, pointed 13c.

-Large blocks in upper part only remains from Aethelflaed's church

St Peter's Abbey

-**Founded 679 by Osric**, prince of Hwicce. Sister Kyneburgh Abbess over '**double minster**'- institution for noble women ministered to by male priests (who could perform sacraments and minister to tenants of endowment lands). Secular priests, could marry and pass on their livings to heirs.

Probable stone church with separate accommodation for each. Sites such as these became famous as centres of learning, culture & piety. But also became rich with large land holdings. Such foundations vetoed after 800 as could be seen as too opulent and allegations of impropriety.

-Convent here closed 767, nuns disbanded, but priests remained ministering to town.

-**Early 11c refounded as Benedictine monastery**. (Cnut again). Concern at laxity of priests and growing wealth of foundations.

-**Monks** (also eg Carthusians, Carmelites) **aimed to live a life of seclusion**. Monasteries often in remote settings. Here in town, but would have been separated by physical barriers.

- Monks not always priests, could be laymen, but gave higher status if took religious orders.

Rule of St Benedict. Monks should: Do Gods work-Prayer & Worship

Keep Busy. Church services x7/day.

When not praying work on land, studying or copying religious texts.

Not leave monastery without permission.

- **By Conquest in poor state**. Serlo brought in to clean up or close down. Rebuilding in Norman style. Rededicated 1100. **Normans consolidated position of church** in everyday lives-alms, schools, administration, law.

-As all foundations gradually more prosperous, lands, money & gifts given by wealthy patrons looking to gain blessings, burial fees. More interaction with town, distraction from seclusion. Hired servants to perform many of the work functions.

-By 13c site covered 12acres. Religious foundations second largest landowners after Crown.

-Precincts

-1216 Crowning H3

-1327 Burial Ed2. Became place of pilgrimage, increasing funds -additions to and decoration of building, culminating in magnificent building here today.

-At height owned about 20 large estates as well as property on every street of the mediaeval town.

- Largely survived deprivations of Dissolution, probably due to Royal connections.

Greyfriars (1231)

-**Franciscans**- first mendicant order in Glos,

Friars lived by begging. Vows of chastity, poverty & obedience. Response to perceived laxity in older monastic foundations.

-**Remit- preaching and teaching to poor.** Buildings based within towns and cities, had to fit into whatever space was available.

- Although some hierarchy, more independent than monks, **answerable only to Pope.**

-**Originally simple wooden church** on land given by Lord Berkeley. (Berkeleys remained patrons until Dissolution). Cloisters and domestic buildings followed later.

-**Gradually land held expanded**- allowed to grow crops rather than beg. Eventually extended to E Gate, 1/7 of internal area of walled mediaeval town.

-Held school of theology in one of turrets on city walls. Only Franciscan friary known to have had **library.**

-**13-14C ongoing conflicts with Abbey**- rights to burials- lucrative (cemetery to N). Disputes over water rights. Eventually settled by Edward the Black Prince in favour of Friars.

-1438 Friars gave $\frac{3}{4}$ their water supply to town

-**1518 Large scale rebuilding** in gothic Perpendicular style, again supported by Berkeleys. Greyfriars never reduced to poverty as were Black & White Friars. Large church in keeping with missionary remit. Nave & N aisle almost equal in size, nothing similar in UK, but common Fr & Ger.

-1538 At Dissolution, reported to Thos Cromwell that Greyfriars was 'a goodly house, much of it rebuilt'

Remains

-There would have been a Chapter House (meeting place for day to day business), refectory, dormitory and other buildings around central cloister.

-S. side nave has trace of former N wall of cloister.

-7 bays, blind panelling between and 4 light traceried windows.

-Reset into outer face S side nave stone shields with arms of Chandos & Clifford families, probably funerary monuments.

-Subsequent to Dissolution multifarious uses. Mid C20 damaged by fire, roof repaired but finally removed by Min of Works in 1960s.

Blackfriars (1239)

- **By beginning 13c backlash** against Benedictines, Augustinians, Cistercians and other orders who were seen as deviating from the original principles of service and devotion. Monks perceived as becoming lazy and wealthy.

-New orders of mendicant **friars** founded amongst others by Dominic of Spain and Francis of Assisi.

Mendicants should beg for their materials and sustenance.

-Although travelled around countryside needed base from which to teach and preach. Patrons gave land and endowments, H3 gave land & timber.

-Dominicans- 'order of educated clerks'. Had to be learned in grammar. Professional and educated people. Dominic wanted his followers to '**save souls and combat heresy**'

-**Here recruits** could spend up to 3y learning to become a Dominican friar, they would go on to study at Oxford to become priests.

-**Extent of original church.**

-**Large cemetery** beneath carpark, at least 140 skeletons excavated, including women & children.

-**Church second largest after abbey**, despite Dominic's requirement that no Dom church should stand above 30' (this is 60'). Friars accommodation should be no more than 12' high. Scissorbraced roof, wood from FOD & Gillingham amongst other places- Royal Forests.

-**Dominican services popular.** Compline service moved to evening to allow working people to attend.

-**After Dissolution** bought by Thos Bell, local capmaker for £240. He already leased the land. Best preserved and most complete Dominican friary in England.

East Range

-**Upper storey dorms.** Nightstair in corner. Single original window.

-**Priors lodging on ground floor.** Some decoration evident, not so strict as some other sects.

South Range

- position of cloisters

-Lavatera-washing stations. Cleanliness v important to religious orders, often sophisticated plumbing.

-Ground floor -buttery, cool. Largely original 13C. 19C Talbots bottling plant.

-Refectory. Food for friars approx. 2d/day. Red meat only if ill or recuperating.

Kitchen separate as constant risk of fire.

At max 40 monks, 25 students, 15 lay friars.

V poor at time of Dissolution. Remaining friars may have been pensioned off or become parish priests. Some rumour that John Hooper, later Bishop of Glos, onetime monk.