

## TIMELINE

- 55 BC Julius Caesar invades Britain
- 71 AD The Roman 9th Legion establishes a defensive settlement they call Eboracum, between the rivers Foss and Ouse
- 410 Romans abandon Britain
- 490 Germanic settlers arrive in York; rename the town Eoforwic
- 601 Pope Gregory chooses York as the centre of Christianity in the north of England
- 627 Edwin, king of Northumbria, is baptised by Paulinus in a new wooden church at York (later to become the Minster)
- 768 Alcuin, Anglo-Saxon scholar and monk teaches theology at York
- 778 Church of Holy Wisdom, built for Archbishop Aethelberht, is begun. Holy Trinity may well stand on the site of this important Saxon church.
- c. 875 Vikings establish a kingdom in the north of England. Its centre is based at York, now named Jorvik
- 1066 The Normans invade and conquer England
- 1068 York surrenders to William the Conqueror
- 1080 The building of York Minster begins
- 1086 Holy Trinity Priory is described in the Domesday Book as 'a ruined and poverty stricken church'.
- 1089 The Priory and its estates handed over to a Norman baron, Ralph Paynell. He invites Benedictine monks from France to come to York and take over the monastery.
- 1130 The sister house of the Monks of Micklegate is founded: the Priory of St Clement's.
- 1137 A fire partly destroys the church
- 1250 The Carmelites join other orders of friars in the city
- 1466 The monastery severs links with its parent house in France

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- 1480      The Prior of Holy Trinity buys two buildings in nearby Trinity Lane, now called Jacob's Well, to house chantry priests
- 1534      Henry VIII breaks with the Church of Rome and is declared Supreme Head of the Church of England
- 1536      Small monasteries are dissolved by the king
- 1538      Larger monasteries are dissolved
- 1543      Holy Trinity Priory and its estates is granted to Leonard Beckwith of Stillington, near York
- 1551      The central Norman tower of the Priory Church collapses in a freak storm
- 1569      Burial of Dame Isabella Ward, last Prioress of Clementhorpe nunnery, in the choir of Holy Trinity church
- 1850      Precinct of the Priory sold off as building lots. The 13th century gateway to the Priory demolished to make way for the building of Priory Street
- 1905      The Reverend John Solloway and his friend and architect, Walter Harvey Brook, begin the excavation and restoration of the church



The Priory Gateway shortly before demolition to make way for the building of Priory Street.

# ROMAN YORK



The Romans settled here in York in AD71 after subduing the Brigantes, a tribe occupying much of north-east England. They named the town *Eboracum* and built a large fortress which became the headquarters of the Ninth Legion with temples, bath houses and finely-decorated public and private houses.



Above - A Roman Street in York.  
 Above left- The entrance to the *Principia*, the Roman Headquarters building.  
 Below left- Roman Walls in York.  
 Left - Memorial stone to a Roman legionary found in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church. The first church on this site may have been built on the remains of a Roman temple.

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# MEDIAEVAL YORK



**In the Middle Ages York was a busy place. Within the city walls the streets were packed with houses, shops, churches, tenements, businesses, monasteries, friaries and nunneries.**

York was an important port, with boats arriving and leaving laden with goods to be sold both at home and abroad.

The streets were not very clean; they were so littered with rubbish that rats, dogs and roaming pigs found plenty to eat. In 1332 King Edward III told the citizens that he hated the dreadful smell that hung over the city; it was worse, he said, than any other city in his realm!

Ox carts rumbled through the narrow streets carrying goods to be sold in the markets and fairs. Washerwomen hurried along with large bundles of washing on their heads. People from the countryside came into the city with fresh vegetables, meat, grain and wool to sell; farmers drove in cattle, pigs or flocks of sheep and the goose woman drove in her flock of geese.



# MEDIAEVAL YORK



Illustrations: Anthony Barton