

**SIX MORE ENGLISH MEDIEVAL CATHEDRALS IN CONTEXT**

<b>Date/Time</b>	Thursdays 24 <sup>th</sup> January-7 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 11am-1pm <b>NB: No class on 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Price</b>	£108 (six weeks)
<b>Venue</b>	Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP	<b>Lecturer</b>	John McNeill
<b>Option</b>	There will be an optional visit to Ely on 14 <sup>th</sup> March (fee to be advised)		

Although the later conferment of cathedral status on medieval churches can easily obscure the fact, England's medieval complement of cathedrals never grew to the number initially envisaged by Pope Gregory the Great. Nonetheless the seventeen dioceses acknowledged as existing by the fifteenth century gave rise to one of the most remarkable groups of medieval ecclesiastical precincts to survive in Europe. This series of six lectures follows a similar short set of lectures in 2018 but is designed so that each lecture is self-sufficient and complete unto itself. It will examine six English medieval cathedrals - and do so from the perspective of their origin, location and architectural character. Three of them, Rochester, Worcester and York, are early Anglo-Saxon foundations, while Lincoln and Salisbury are post-Conquest creations, and Ely was only given cathedral status in 1109. Their origins, the communities they accommodated, and their specifically local traditions go some way towards explaining their very varied character, but there is much to suggest that their architectural particularity may have been valued in its own right.

**Lectures**

1. **Rochester:** The cathedral of England's smallest diocese: architectural extravagance in miniature
2. **Worcester:** Monasticism in the West Midlands; Anglo-Saxon memories and thirteenth-century reconstruction
3. **Lincoln:** The cathedral on the hill – English vaulting comes of age
4. **Salisbury:** The cathedral in the valley – architecture and episcopal reform
5. **Ely:** The cathedral of the Fens – recovery from the 1321 tower collapse
6. **York:** England's second archbishopric – the Paris of the north
7. Optional visit to Ely Cathedral

**Lecturer**

**John McNeill** lectures on medieval art and architecture for the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education. He has led London Art History tours for many years. He is the Honorary Secretary of the British Archaeological Association, for whom he has contributed to and edited volumes of essays on King's Lynn and the Fens, English medieval chantries and, most recently, Romanesque Patrons and Processes. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a Vice President of The London Art History Society.