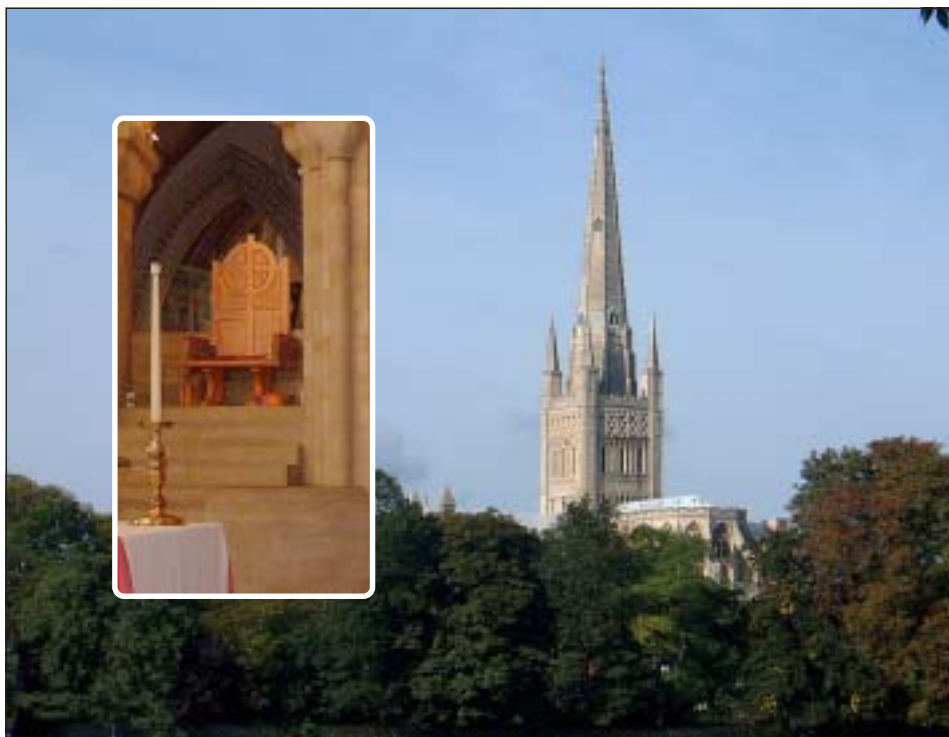


NORWICH SCENES

The cathedral



In 1066, perhaps the best-remembered date in English history, the Norman invader William the Conqueror triumphed over the native Anglo-Saxon King Harold at the battle of Hastings and soon established his rule over the whole country. Norwich became a seat of Norman power, with a castle soon being built. In 1094 it became a cathedral city when the seat of the bishop transferred from Thetford. A magnificent cathedral was constructed of imported stone, and was added to and altered over the centuries; the most notable feature in our picture, the ninety-six-metre-high spire (the second highest in England), being completed in the late fifteenth century.

Thrusting into the sky towards heaven, it reminds us of a much earlier example of man's pretensions to reach upward, the tower of Babel.

The word 'cathedral' comes from the Greek *kathedra*, meaning 'seat', and it was carried through into the Latin, *cathedra*, to mean a bishop's seat. The inset picture shows the present seat of the Bishop of Norwich, made out of medieval timbers. It is apparently the only cathedral north of the Alps with the bishop's seat in its original position. Below and behind the present seat are two carved stones, all that remains of the original throne. Such thrones follow on from the practice of the Romans to have a central throne of judgement in their basilicas. As the Roman Empire came to its end, so the Church took over much of its power and its customs, fulfilling the role prophesied for it in the little horn prophecy of Daniel 7 and the beast prophecies of Revelation. The authority of local bishops to judge from their thrones was derived from the pope, the man of sin of 2 Thessalonians 2, who "opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth (*kathizō*, connected with *kathedra*) in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (v. 4).—Tony Benson