

An Introduction to Ely Cathedral

Ely Cathedral is a place of worship. It is part of the Christian church, known as the Church of England. Worshippers here can be called Anglicans.

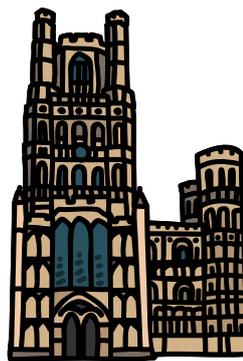
Daily services take place at Ely Cathedral. It is a cathedral (rather than a church) because it is the mother church for the Diocese of Ely, the large group of churches in towns and villages around Ely, including the city of Cambridge. Two bishops are linked to Ely Cathedral.



Our patron saint in Ely is called St Etheldreda. She was a Saxon princess, queen and nun. She founded a monastery here in 673 AD.

Ely Cathedral has many buildings still in use from when it was a monastery. These are now used as school buildings, offices, homes and a cafe.

Building work for the cathedral in Ely started in Norman times, in 1081 AD. Many changes have taken place through time. They are shown on the timeline below.



Ely Cathedral has a tower unlike any other. It is called the Octagon Tower. This tower was built when the previous tower fell down over 700 years ago.

