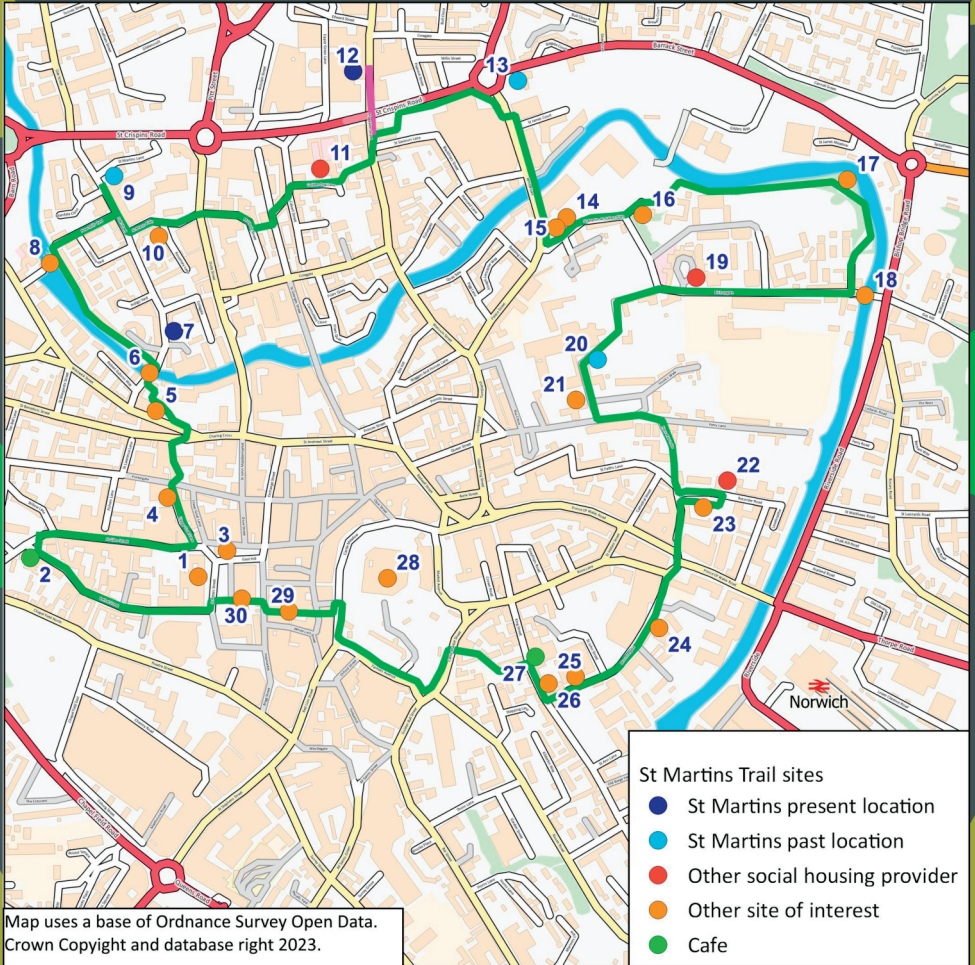


St Martins Walk



THE NORWICH SOCIETY
100 YEARS
Celebrating Norwich since 1923

St Martins
more than a home for the homeless

1 Norwich City Hall



Norwich City Hall is an impressive Art Deco building designed by Charles Holloway James and Stephen Rowland Pierce. It was completed in 1938 and officially opened by

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Start walking up Bethel Street (to the left of City Hall). Go past the South Asia Collection on your right. Just on the corner of St Giles Street is the...



Norwich City Council is the main provider of social housing in Norwich.

St Martins was awarded Freedom of the City in 2022.

2 REST Café, Churchman House, 71 Bethel Street



Churchman House was built in around 1730 with 19th century additions. It's worth a visit to view this historic building and excellent café. REST is a partnership project led by Norfolk and Waveney

MIND bringing together mental health support, local services and a place where everyone can feel welcome.

Turn sharp right down St Giles Street until you come again to City Hall. Immediately in front of you is...



The café is run by The Feed, a social enterprise with a mission to prevent poverty, hunger and homelessness in Norwich. The Feed operates several cafes in Norwich where they deliver supported work experience programmes to help people back into employment.

3

The Guildhall



St Martins' CEO Dr Jan Sheldon is the Sheriff of Norwich for 2023/24



This guildhall was built in 1407-13 as the Guildhall of St George's Company. The guild itself was founded in 1385 and early members included Norfolk knights like Thomas Erpingham, Simon Felbrigg, John Wodehouse and John Fastolf. Each member subscribed a farthing a week. In the case of a member falling into poverty that person would be given eight pence a week, but the main intention was to raise money for an image of St George. The guild held services on St George's feast day in Norwich Cathedral, where there was an altar dedicated to Saint George.

During the post medieval period it was used as the Town Hall before becoming the Magistrates' Court in 1938. It now operates as the headquarters of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival and the Sheriff of Norwich also has an office there.

Cross the road and turn left down Upper Goat Lane. At the bottom on the left is the...

4

Quaker Meeting House, Upper Goat Lane

Quakers have been meeting in Norwich since the 1670s. They are a faith group, committed to working together for equality and peace. In the 19th century the Norwich Quakers were active in the movement to abolish slavery



Cross over Pottergate and go down St Gregory's Alley (to the right of the church). At the bottom (St Benedict's Street) cross via the pedestrian crossing and turn right. Then take a sharp right into Westwick Street. 50m down, cross the road and go through the opening in the red brick wall where you will find...



The Meeting House is used by more than 90 community and voluntary groups. Some work with the most vulnerable members of society, whilst others introduce people to new skills

5 Gybson's Conduit, off Westwick Street

Gybson's Conduit (also known as St Lawrence's Well, or Gibson's Fountain) was a public water source erected 'for the ease of the common people' by wealthy brewer and Sheriff of Norwich Robert Gybson around 1578.



Continue as the path bears to the right then turn left under the arch and hard right to...

6 Coslany Bridge



This is the site of two 13th century bridges crossing islands in the centre of the river along the line of what had been a Roman road. The current iron bridge dates from 1804 and is the earliest iron bridge in the city.

Look over the up-stream (left hand) balustrade and you can see the opening (painted red) which allowed the Fire Service and road steam engines to feed their hoses into the river to get access to the water without kinking. All the iron bridges in Norwich have this feature.

Immediately after the bridge turn left down the riverside path.

7

Barnard's Yard



Norwich is characterised by the many courts and yards built behind medieval and Tudor mansions in order to house poor workers who flooded into the city when they could no

longer make a living on the land. Over the years these became crowded and insanitary. The crunch came in the infamous floods of August 1912 when torrential rain fell for 20 hours and 7½ inches of rain were recorded. Streets flooded and over three and a half thousand houses were affected, especially in the north of the city. Three people were killed and 2,200 people were evacuated.

This drew attention to the appalling living conditions of many people housed in insanitary homes. It was agreed that the council should purchase the properties and this started a big programme of slum clearance and council house building.

Along the riverside path on your left is...

Norwich City Council and St Martins offer temporary accommodation and support for people who are homeless in nearby Barnards Yard.



8 New Mills

Walking along the river is now a pleasant experience but, in the past, the river was a dumping ground for industrial and human waste. Poor people took their lives in their hands when they used the river as their main source of drinking water. Norwich City Council initiated various projects to provide clean drinking water and to control sewage.



Before the Norman Conquest New Mills was the site of a mill used for grinding corn and fulling cloth. In the mid 19th century New Mills was used to pump drinking water from the river to Market Cross.

The present building is a sewage pumping station which was built in 1897. It used pumping engines and compressed air to force sewage in low-lying areas to the treatment works. It is believed to be one of only two surviving examples of this machinery (the other being in the Houses of Parliament).

St Martins' Learning and Development Centre and Highwater House back directly onto New Mills.



Just past New Mills turn right down New Mills Road. At the end of the road turn left and a short distance up the road is...

9 St Martin at Oak, Oak Street

St Martin at Oak takes its name from the oak tree that used to stand in the churchyard and which, in the Middle Ages, housed an image of the Virgin Mary. The church was effectively destroyed in 1942 in bombing of the city and was subsequently restored. The church is now in the care of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust.



Retrace your steps and head down Oak Street. Turn left into St Mary's Plain. Follow the pavement with the church on your left.

On the right is...



St Martin's Night Shelter was housed in the church from 1976, when it left St James Pockthorpe, until 2002, when it moved to the purpose-built Bishopbridge House.

10

Pykerell's House, Rosemary Lane



This is one of only five historic thatched buildings in Norwich. Thatch was outlawed after the major fire of 1507, which destroyed most of Elm Hill. When the law was repealed thatch was still discouraged as a hazardous building material, but a few houses remain. The house is named after Thomas Pykerell, three times mayor from 1525. According to tradition it housed a "pilgrim's hall" for pilgrims on their way to Walsingham. In the 19th century it was an inn called the Rosemary Tavern.

Keep walking past the church to Duke Street. Cross over into Muspole Street. Just past the bend turn left into Alms Lane. Turn left into St George's Street and right into Cross Lane. Follow the road round to the left and then take a right turn into Golden Dog Lane. On your left is...

11

Doughty's Hospital, Golden Dog Lane



Doughty's Hospital was established following a bequest from merchant William Doughty, who died in 1688. He left a sum of money to buy a plot of land on which to build Almshouses for

'24 poor, old men and women' who lived in Norwich. The complex is now part of Norwich Consolidated Charities and there are seven buildings set in beautiful grounds with the more recent having been built in 2015.

Doughty's provides housing with extra care and support to older people so they can continue to live independently in their own home for as long as possible.

Where the road goes round to the right go straight ahead down the pedestrian alley. Turn left at the end into Magdalen Street. Cross at the lights and continue left. Just beyond the flyover is...

12

St Martins' Donation Station, Anglia Square

St Martins' donations project makes the most of generous gifts of items from the public and as a way of providing the people we support with volunteering opportunities.

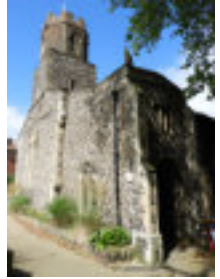


The Donation Station is open on Monday – Saturday 9am – 4pm as a drop-off point for donations, a charity shop for the public, as well as a location for the people who use our services to collect items they need.

To continue your walk, turn down the pathway to the left of the church by the red telephone box. Turn left at the carpark and then right along the flyover wall. In the distance you will see...

13**Puppet Theatre, St James' Church, Barrack Street**

Since 1978 it has housed the Puppet Theatre. It is the only theatre in the eastern region of the UK which has a year-round programme of family-centred entertainment. It plays host to a variety of touring companies from the UK and overseas, and provides regular educational workshops for children and adults, as well as training opportunities for theatre practitioners.



Turn right at the roundabout into Whitefriars. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and keep going over the bridge and you will come to...



This was the original home of St Martin's Night Shelter from 1972 until it moved to St Martin-at-Oak in 1976.

14**St Martin-at-Palace Plain**

This was the site of a major battle on 1 August 1549 between Robert Kett and his people's army, and the Earl of Northampton fighting on behalf of the King. Kett's rebellion as it is known was an uprising of agricultural workers centred on Wymondham who were protesting against the enclosure of common land, which was robbing them of their livelihoods. The rebels camped on Mousehold Heath and besieged Norwich. They send various demands to the King for social justice. Despite winning the battle against the Earl of



Northampton, they were eventually defeated by superior forces, including mercenaries, and the leaders were hanged.

The church of St Martin is the headquarters of the Norwich Historic Churches Trust which has been helpful providing shelters over the years. The church is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

15

Heavenly gardens



St Martin's churchyard features one of the "heavenly gardens". Churchyards comprise nearly half the open space in the city centre and are gradually being transformed through the Heavenly Gardens project which "aspires to revitalise the medieval churchyards of Norwich to create an interconnected botanic garden for community use". The heavenly garden at St Martin's commemorates the many famous botanists who have lived in Norwich.

Turn left towards Bishopgate and the Law Courts. Where the road bends round to the right is...

16

The Adam and Eve

The Adam and Eve is Norwich's oldest pub being at least 750 years old. Records of the pub begin in 1249 when it was a brewhouse run by monks and used by workmen building the cathedral. The monks also gave ale from the brew house to patients at The Great Hospital.

The pub was to play a part in the bitter battles of Kett's Rebellion in 1549 (mentioned above). During the Battle of Palace Plain, Lord

Sheffield was knocked from his horse and fell into a ditch in Bishopsgate. As was etiquette for a cavalryman who had been knocked off his horse, Sheffield removed his helmet in surrender expecting to be captured and then ransomed. However, the peasants who had revolted were not used to traditional customs of battle, and so - sensing an opportunity - one of the rebels struck Sheffield around the head with a cleaver. Wounded, Sheffield was taken to the Adam and Eve pub, but later died from his injuries.



Go straight past the Adam and Eve with the pub on your right and go through the small pub carpark (with gravel surface). Go through the gateway waymarked for the Riverside Walk and then take the right hand fork. On the bend of the river you will find the...

17

Cow Tower

Built originally as a toll house and prison by the prior of the cathedral some time after 1249. It was given to the city authorities in 1378 and was then reconstructed and refaced in brick as a free standing artillery tower c.1398/9 as part of the city defences.



Follow the path to the Red Lion pub by Bishop Bridge.

18 Bishop Bridge



Built in 1340, Bishop Bridge is still in use, making it one of the oldest active bridges in England. The origins of the bridge go back still earlier to 1275 when the prior of Norwich Cathedral was granted a license by Edward I to build a fortified gatehouse with a bridge attached. The gatehouse was finished in 1343 over the western end of the bridge. It was paid for by Richard Spynk, who also paid for the completion of Norwich's defensive walls and armed the gates with weapons.

The bridge was owned by the monks and they could charge tolls to travellers. The priory maintained the bridge until 1393, when it passed to the city of Norwich and formed part of the defensive perimeter. The gatehouse was a part of the bridge until 1791 when it was demolished as it was feared that its weight was damaging the bridge.



Just the other side of the river is Bishopbridge House, St Martins' direct access hostel

Turn right up Bishopgate and on the left is...

19 The Great Hospital, Bishopgate



The Great Hospital was founded in 1249 by Bishop Walter de Suffield to provide support for aged priests, sick and hungry paupers and poor scholars. As well as being a wonderfully

preserved historic site it continues to provide residential care today for elderly people.

Where the road takes a sharp turn to the right go straight ahead through the gate into the Cathedral grounds. Follow the road round past Edith Cavell's grave and on to the Deanery garage, almost opposite the Cathedral south doorway.

20

Deanery garage, Norwich Cathedral Close

This is where the St Martins story started in 1970. There is a blue plaque on the garage wall – behind a locked iron gate, but visible if you peek around at an angle.



Although a garage might seem a rather unprepossessing start in life for a charity like St Martins, in fact the Cathedral Close is a very appropriate location. Norwich Cathedral was founded in 1096 by the first Bishop of Norwich, Bishop Herbert de Losinga as a Benedictine monastery. Monasteries served as hospitals and places of refuge for the weak and homeless. The monks studied the healing properties of plants and minerals to alleviate the sufferings of the sick. The cathedral precinct or 'Close' is the largest to survive in England and also has the largest number of residential houses within it. These houses range from C18th townhouses to homes converted from what remained of the C14th and C15th monastic buildings.



Continue round to the left

The first person helped by St Martins, a gentleman called Eddie, slept in the Dean's garage.

21

Cathedral Infirmary

Just round the corner from the Dean's garage in the car park next to the new Cathedral Refectory are the remains of the late 12th century Infirmary. The full complex comprised the infirmary hall itself, a chapel, the latrine block, a recreational garden, and a working medicinal garden. The infirmary hall survived roofed and largely intact until the summer of 1804 when it was demolished to improve the view from the deanery.



Today only four columns remain of the infirmary stranded in the car park. These are the remains of the arcade in the aisled hall. This was a typical layout of monastic and hospital infirmaries with patients occupying beds in the screened side aisles and the central space left clear for the movement of staff.

At the T junction just beyond the Infirmary, turn left keeping the green on your left. Turn right down Horsefair Loke (signed to Station and Rose Lane carpark). When you emerge at the road junction turn left into Recorder Road, past Blickling Court and on to Stuart Court.

22

Stuart Court, Recorder Road

Stuart Court was built in 1915 as 'alms-houses for the deserving poor' by Ethel Mary Colman and Helen Mary Colman as a memorial to their late brother-in-law, James Stuart. The building still provides accommodation for people over 60 years of age.



Immediately opposite is...

23 James Stuart Gardens

Tucked away on Recorder Road you can find a charming hidden gem. James Stuart Gardens were designed by the architect E.T. Boardman (son of the more famous Edward Boardman), and laid out before 1922 as a memorial to James Stuart, who married into the Colman family.



Turn right through the gardens and leave by the ornamental gateway. Turn left and walk on to Prince of Wales Road. Cross over the road and carry straight on down Mountergate past the Rose Lane carpark.

Recorder Road is the location of St Martins Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub, offering emergency accommodation to people who would otherwise be sleeping rough



24 Weavers' House, Mountergate

This is a 17th century weaving factory, now converted into apartments. From the medieval period to the early 20th century, Norwich was a centre for weaving and provided employment for a large proportion of its citizens. Norwich cloth was exported throughout the world, and Queen Victoria owned five of the famous Norwich shawls.



Keep walking straight upwards towards King Street. On your right is the ...

25 Co-operative Wholesale Boot & Shoe Works, Mountergate

The company was founded in 1863 and moved to here in 1923 in a building previously owned by local engineering company, Boulton and Paul. The wall and gate have been preserved as part of a new development called Parmentergate Court (a parmenter was a leatherworker).



When you arrive at King Street immediately opposite is...

26 Raven Yard, King Street

As you walk round Norwich you will see lots of entrances marked “yard” or “Court”. As mentioned earlier, there are the slum-like dwellings built behind large houses for poor people who came to Norwich from Tudor times looking for work. Many have been rebuilt or gentrified, but it is always worth peeping in.



Turn right and on your right is the ...

27 King's Conference Centre & Coffee Shop, King Street

The King's Centre was opened in 2003 and is owned and operated by King's Community Church. It is staffed by members of the church



The Centre's mission is to serve people; whether through hosting conferences or helping people in need. This is why 100% of the net profit from the conference centre and coffee shop goes towards empowering people to walk free from poverty.

Opposite the King's Centre turn left up the path through St Peter Parmentergate's churchyard. Follow the path round to the right. You come out opposite the Castle Quarter shopping mall and cafes. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and turn left. Turn right into Cattle Market Street. On your right is...

28

Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery

Norwich Castle was founded by William the Conqueror some time between 1066 and 1075. Building the castle, which extended over Castle Meadow and Farmers Avenue, required the destruction of between 17 and 113 houses, and a Saxon cemetery. For centuries Norwich Castle was a symbol of oppression – first as a stronghold for the Norman conquerors, and then as the county gaol and place of execution. Robert Kett was hanged from the battlements after the failure of his Rebellion in 1549. Now an award-winning museum, it is the recognisable landscape beacon around which Norwich conducts its daily life.



The Castle Keep is currently undergoing a major refurbishment but the rest of the museum is open as usual.

Keep going to Castle Meadow. Turn right and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left then almost immediately right under the arch and you will see the rear entrance to the...

29 Royal Arcade

The Royal Arcade was built on the site of an old coaching inn and was unveiled on the 25th May 1899. The hotel's frontage was retained and still serves as the entrance to the arcade from Gentleman's Walk. As you walk in from the Castle end of the Arcade you are confronted by a most spectacular façade. Throughout the arcade are panels of decorative coloured tiles depicting peacocks and flowers, manufactured by Doulton and designed by the ceramic sculptor W J Neatby, perhaps best known for the tiles in Harrods food hall in London.



Walk through the Arcade and come out at...

30 Norwich Market

The market is at the heart of Norwich. It was founded in the late 11th century when the Normans moved the Anglo-Saxon market from Tombland and is still flourishing over 900 years later. In 2019 it was named the "best large outdoor market in Britain" in the Great British Market Awards.



And here you are back at City Hall where this trail began



St Martins

more than a home
for the homeless

St Martins is a Norwich-based homelessness charity, supporting around 300 people at any one time.

St Martins was established in 1972, and since then has helped over 25,000 people out of homelessness by offering housing, support and care.

St Martins teamed up with the Norwich Society thenorwichsociety.org.uk to create this walk around the city highlighting its history and commitment to supporting people in need throughout the ages - a mission that continues today.



www.stmartinshousing.org.uk

Registered charity 802013

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