1472  York Minster officially complete.

1483  Visit by Richard III for the investiture of his son as Prince of Wales.

1530  Cardinal-Archbishop Thomas Wolsey finally decides to visit his Cathedral, but is arrested nearby and never arrives!

1547-50  Reformation Changes: destruction of St William’s Shrine; abolition of the Chantries and Chantry Priests; removal of “images”; reduction from seven daily services to three, and introduction of English Liturgy and Clergy Marriage.

1550-58  Catholic restoration under Mary: Archbishop Holgate forced to resign or give up his wife.

1558 +  Elizabethan Settlement: York Minster and Church of England essentially become what they are today.

1633  Visit by Charles I who presents a velvet-bound Bible and Prayer Book which are still put on the High Altar at each anniversary of his execution.

1644  Siege of York: Only minor damage to Minster, but cathedrals are technically abolished by Parliament. The Minster becomes a “Preaching House”.

1660  Restoration of Crown and Church: a cathedral once again.
1731-6 Major re-flooring supervised by Lord Burlington to a “Greek Key” design by William Kent.

1798 Major survey by John Carr, who notes the movement of the Central Tower and restores the Chapter House Vault.

1829 Jonathan Martin deliberately sets fire to the Quire. The fire destroys the organ, the quire roof and most original wooden furniture.

1840 Accidental fire caused by William Groves starts in the South West Tower and spreads to the Nave roof.

1863 Seating and lighting in Nave for first time.

1871 Choristers robed for first time since Reformation.

1899 + Restoration of St William’s College.

1945-67 Post War restoration of stained glass.


1984 Fire destroys South Transept roof and damages Rose Window.

2000 York cycle of Mystery plays performed in York Minster

2006 Major Restoration of East Front and Great East window commences.