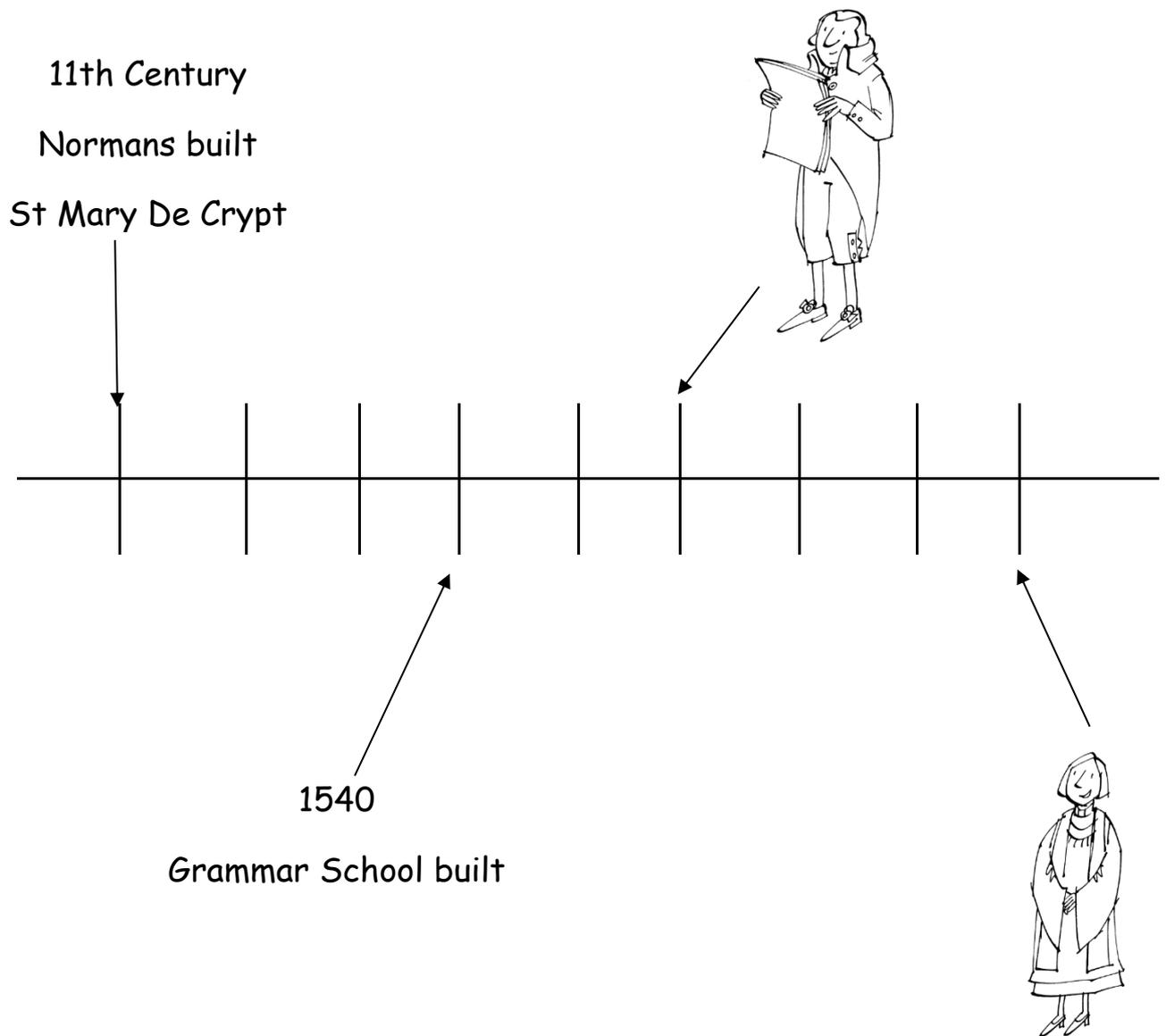


# History of St Mary de Crypt & the Old Crypt Schoolroom





## History of St Mary de Crypt and the Old Crypt Schoolroom

It is important to have an overview of the history of the church and the schoolroom. Having this overview can help in illustrating key points in history.

### Resources Provided:

- 'what we know and what we want to find out' template
- background information for the different periods of history for St Mary de Crypt and the Old Crypt Schoolroom
- history of St Mary de Crypt
- timeline template
- timeline images

### Activity ideas:

- Think about what the children already know and what they want to find out. Brainstorm different time periods in history e.g. Romans, Saxons, Middle Ages. Highlight key points of interest from the background information and or the timeline showing the history of St Mary De Crypt and the schoolroom.
- Children to create their own fact sheet or timelines to show what they think are the key points in the history of the church and Crypt Schoolroom.
- The children could each concentrate on one time period and create work related to this. They can then compare and contrast this with others.



What I already know about  
St Mary de Crypt and the  
Schoolroom

What I would like to find out



## Background information

### The key points in the history of St Mary de Crypt and the Old Crypt Schoolroom

#### MIDDLE AGES

1100s      St Mary de Crypt was built and consecrated in 1137.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

1300s      The Church as it is seen today was built.

1300s      St Mary de Crypt possessed the largest of Gloucester's parishes, covering an area of approximately 17 acres.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

1400s      St Mary de Crypt re-built on the Norman foundations of the earlier church.

1400s      Henry Dene, patron of St Mary de Crypt, was responsible for the rebuilding of the Church .

1459      First record of five bells being installed.



## 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- 1530s      Joan and John Cooke raised the funds to open the school.
- 1539      St Mary de Crypt grammar school opened in Gloucester.
- 1576      The accessible chambers and the north aisle in the church were used as an Inn.



## 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- 1643      During the Civil War the royalists laid siege to Gloucester but failed to capture it. The church acted as the main magazine of the Parliamentary defenders of the city against the armies of King Charles I.



## 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- 1714      George Whitefield was born and baptised in St Mary de Crypt.
- 1736      George Whitefield preached his first sermon at St Mary de Crypt.
- 1736      Robert Raikes was born and baptised in St Mary de Crypt.
- 1738      Robert Raikes attended Crypt School.



## 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- 1822 A Sunday school opened following the model of Robert Raikes.
- 1848 Benjamin Doyle, aged 15 was appointed as the Bell ringer (when he died in 1912 he has been in service of the church for 77 years).
- 1850 William Ernest Henley attended Crypt School.
- 1860 The parish purchased the Old Schoolroom to use as parish rooms, as the school had outgrown the building; they paid £500.
- 1881 The schoolroom was refurbished and opened as a Sunday School.



## 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- 1906 The bells at the church became unringable.
- 1907 Florence Li Tim Oi, Pioneer & Mentor of the Women Priests' Movement, was born.
- 1909 Major restoration took place and the pinnacles were removed from the tower.



## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

- 2011 Discover DeCrypt Project is undertaken.
- 2018 The Crypt School become a mixed boys and girls school.
- 2019 The Crypt School children continue to attend services at the Church.
- 2019 The Church is again open to the public, offering fun activities to learn all about the Church and Old Crypt Schoolroom.



## The History of St Mary de Crypt



The present church is in the Perpendicular Style, which evolved very early in Gloucester, and dates to between 1461 and 1490. It has been described as "A Cathedral in Miniature" because its large choir is unusually tall and long in proportion to the nave. It was re-built on the foundations of the earlier Norman church when Henry Dene, the patron (later Archbishop of Canterbury), was prior of the Priory of Llanthony Secunda. Little is known of the Norman church other than that it was consecrated in 1137 and that the floor plan had dimensions similar to those of the present church.

St Mary de Crypt is the only one of the 12 mediaeval churches to have had a crypt and unusually to have one of such dimensions, here extending under the whole of the floor area. The accessible chambers under the nave and its north aisle were in use by 1576 as an inn. The chambers were later let out as workshops.

During the English Civil War, at the time of the Siege in 1643, they were the main magazine of the Parliamentary defenders of the City against the armies of King Charles I.

The very tall east window with panel tracery is filled with 19th century stained glass which is an excellent copy of a mediaeval European "Credo" window. In the eastern blind bays of the Sanctuary are rather mutilated mediaeval wall paintings dating from about 1530. These were uncovered in the 1890s, having been whitewashed over at the time of the Reformation. The north side painting is recognisable as "The Adoration" but that on the south side is unidentifiable.

The South Choir aisle was reordered in the 1930s as a memorial to Robert Raikes junior (one of the founders of the Sunday School movement) whose family vault is marked by a modern slate cover.

The central tower is supported on massive columns that in the north-west corner were enlarged to accommodate the spiral stair leading to the Ringing Chamber, which houses a fine ring of eight bells cast and hung by the Gloucester Bell Foundry of the Rudhalls.





In the North Transept can be seen memorial brasses from the tomb of John and Joan Cooke who founded The Crypt School; and the only memorial in the city of his birth to the Reverend *George Whitefield*, internationally renowned evangelical preacher. Names incised in the floor tiles mark the vaults beneath of various families including the Hoare family of bankers who founded Yale University in the USA. The south transept contains the 18th century font in which Whitefield and Raikes were baptised.

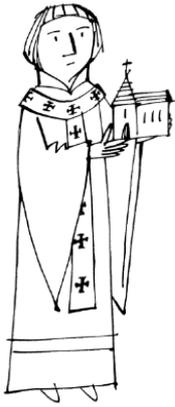
# St Mary De Crypt and the Old Crypt Schoolroom - a timeline

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What is your favourite fact?



1137

The first Church was built on the site in Southgate Street



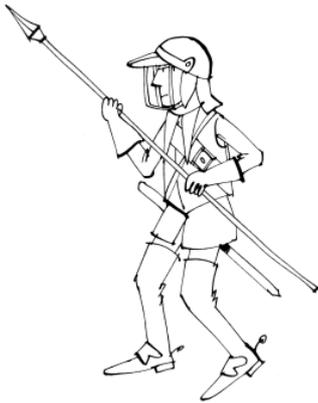
1530

Joan and John Cooke raised the funds to build a school



1539

Crypt School opens



1643

Civil War



1565, 1573,

1580, 1593, 1637

Plague strikes Gloucester



1736

George Whitefield preachers



1756–1836

James Wood



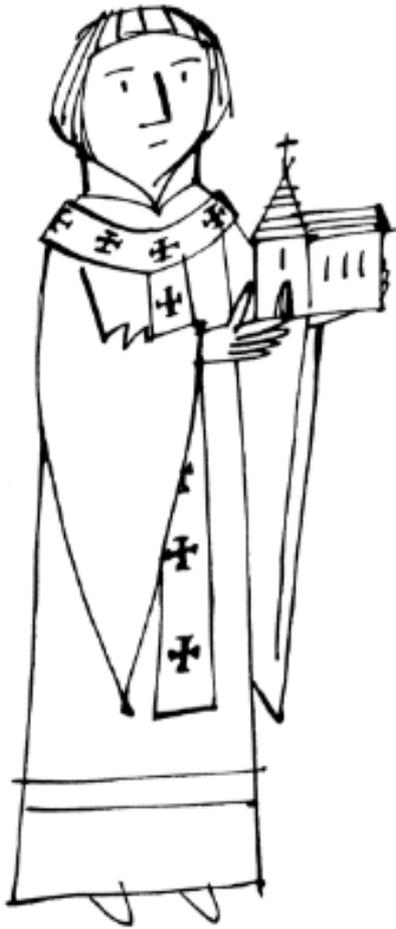
1822

Robert Raikes opens a Sunday School



1822

Victorian teaching occurs at the school for both boys and girls



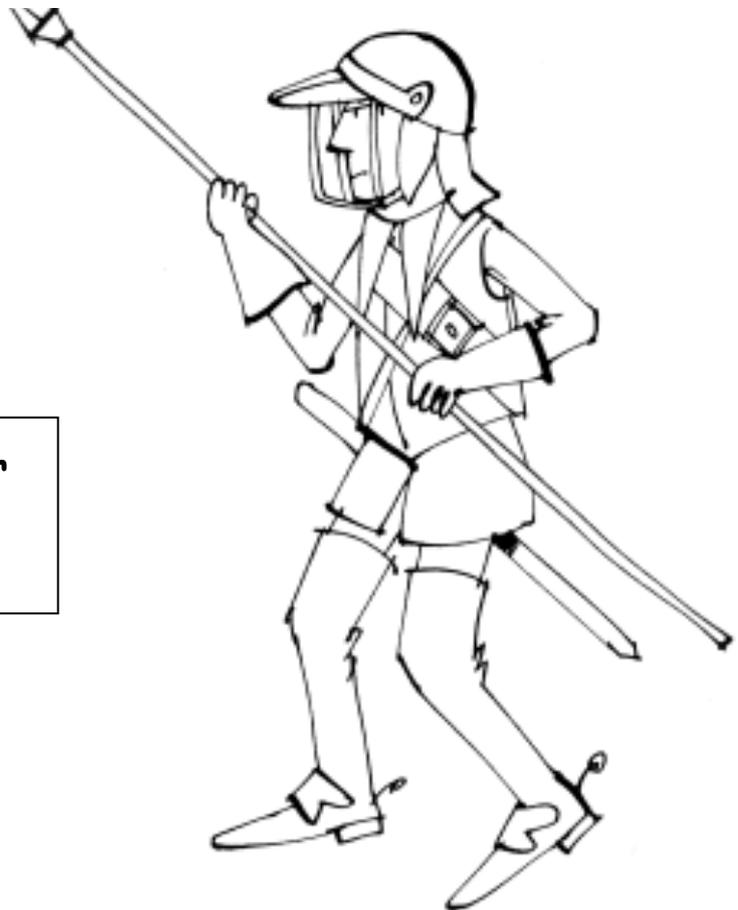
Henry Dene

Joan and John  
Cook





Tudor school  
master and  
school boy



Civil War  
soldier



Robert  
Raikes

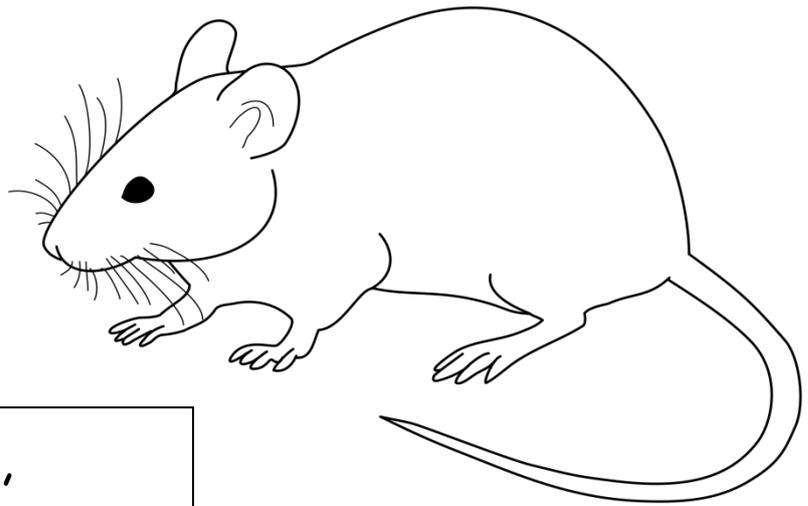


Victorian school  
teacher

Jemmy  
Wood



George  
Whitefield



1565, 1573,  
1580, 1593, 1637  
Plagues hit Gloucester



21<sup>st</sup> Century  
visitors to the  
church



Benjamin  
Doyle



Florence Li  
Tim Oi



21<sup>st</sup>  
Century  
Crypt boy



Vicar of St  
Mary de Crypt  
(2019)