

The Binham Mason's Tale - Discovery Sheet

The huge church you are standing in is the work of several generations of stonemasons. These craftsmen were lead by master masons who designed the building and supervised the other masons who carved the stones. Work started on the Norman priory church in the 1090s and it took about 150 years to complete. The work begun by the first master mason would not have been finished until his great grandchildren were grown-ups.

The church you see today is less than half the size of the original building, the oldest part of it is now in ruins, and is blocked off by the wall behind the altar at the east end. The last part to be finished, in about 1240, was the gothic style west end where you came in.

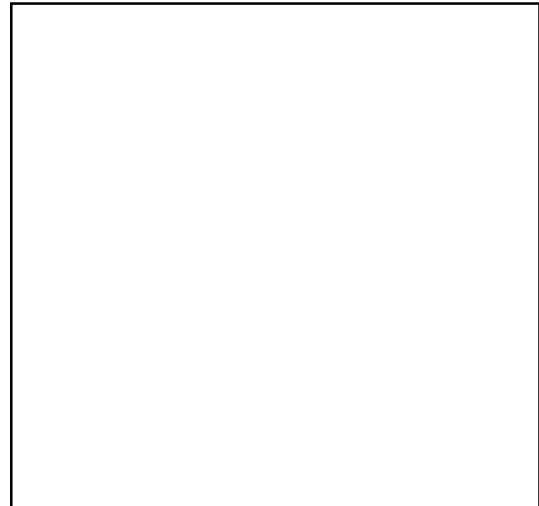


Things to do and look for

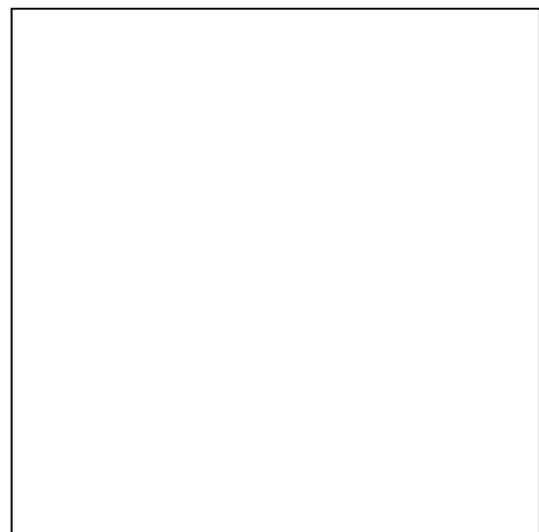
1. Find the brass copy of our mason's picture, shown above, and make a rubbing of him.
2. Find the only head the masons carved on the inside walls of the church, it may be a self-portrait of one of them. The picture on the left shows what you are looking for, it is not very big and you will have to look up.

3. Is the shape of the arch next to the carved head rounded or pointed? Draw a picture of the arch.

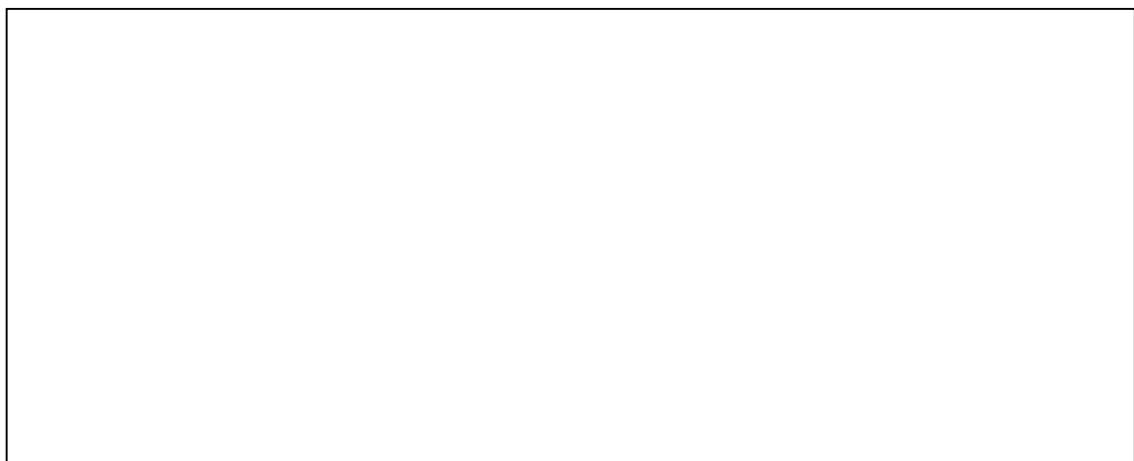
The arches, windows and doors in the church with rounded tops are Norman work, they are older than those with pointed tops.



4. Arches built with pointed tops are known as Gothic style. It was invented by a French master mason. Draw one of the pointed gothic arches, windows or doors.



5. How many different patterns can you find carved on the the arches? Draw as many as you can below.



Binham Priory, Access & Conservation Project

