




# The Halls Norwich

600 years of stories...  
let them tell yours"



-  **St Andrews Hall**
-  **Blackfriars Hall**
-  **The Crypt**
-  **Becket's Chapel**
-  **The Cloisters**



# The Halls' story

The Dominican Blackfriars moved here in 1307 and took over the buildings of a minor order of Friars, from Marseilles, called the Sack Friars. These early buildings, built of brick and dating from 1270 to 1307, mostly still survive and are now The Crypt and the covered remains of the Thomas A' Becket Chapel – 'wilfully destroyed' in 1876.

The friary church, dedicated to St John the Baptist and the largest of the four city friaries, was begun in 1326 but not finished until 1470 due to a fire destroying the majority of the building in 1413. Five original windows in St Andrew's Hall and the great east window in Blackfriars' Hall were incorporated into the new building.

The great preaching nave is separated from the friars' private choir by a walkway that led directly to The Cloisters. The walkway was originally surmounted by a tower built in 1462 by Sir Simon de Felbrigge who is buried in Blackfriars' Hall. The tower was destroyed in a gale in 1712.

At the Reformation the City petitioned King Henry VIII in 1538 to purchase the friary and to:

*'make the church a fayer and large halle, well pathed, for the mayor and his bretheren... for their common assemblyes...'*

The city Chamberlains paid £81 in June 1540, but then had to pay a further £152 for the roof lead they had already bought. The first recorded civic event was the Mayor's feast for Henry Fuller in 1544. As well as being used for Guild meetings, as an assize court, corn exchange and corn



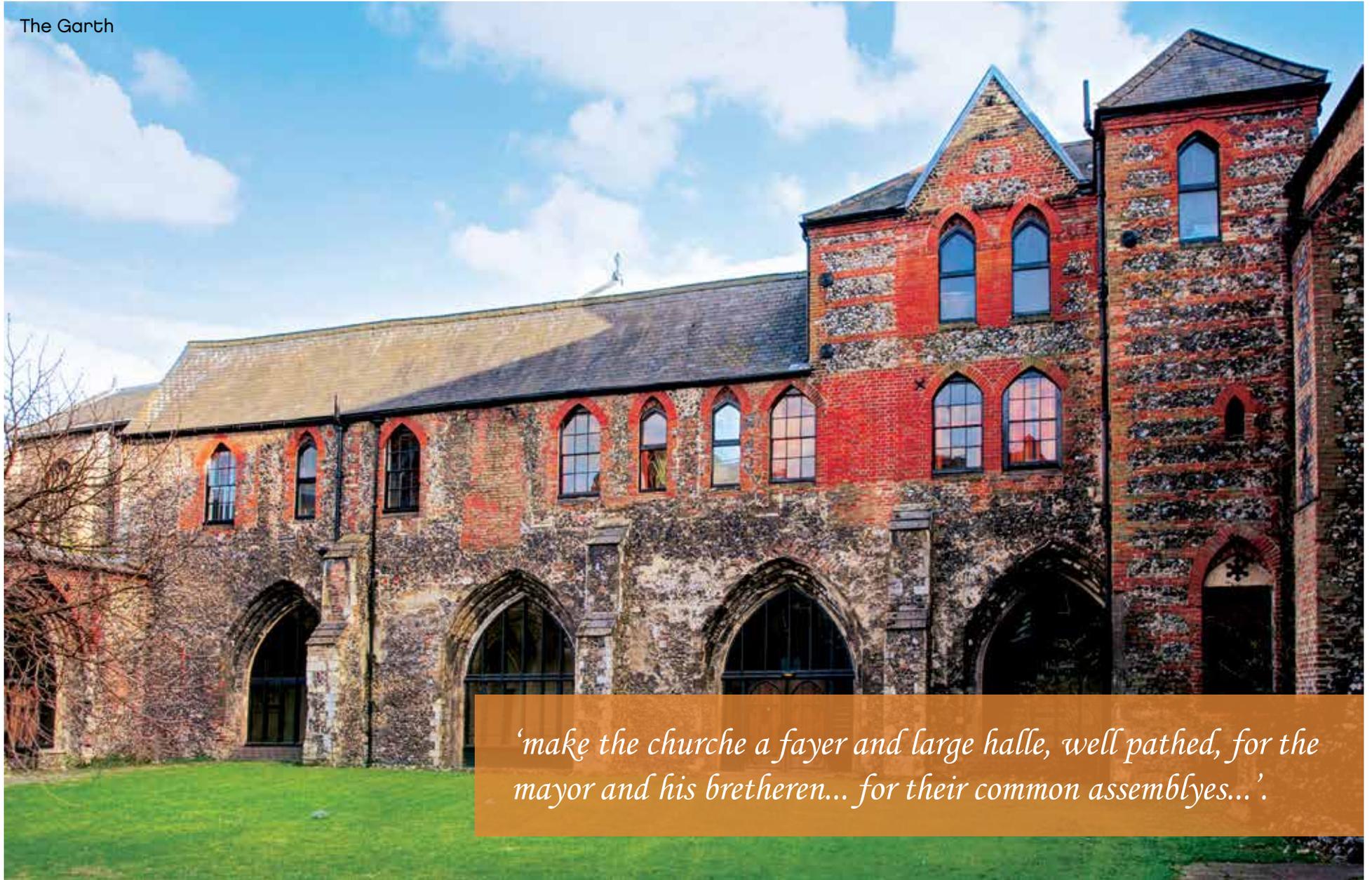
hall, the Hall has shared in every aspect of the City's history. The Earl of Warwick stabled his horses here when he came to crush Kett's rebellion in 1549, Sir Thomas Browne was knighted here by Charles II in 1671 and The Norfolk and Norwich Festival started in these halls in 1824 and has continued to the present day. More modern traditions include the largest regional beer festival in Great Britain started in 1978.

In the great re-coinage of 1695, £259,000 in half-crowns, shillings and sixpences were minted in a corner of The Cloisters and these bear the letter N under the bust of William III.

The Halls are home to part of the biggest collection of civic portraits in the country, 127 in total, with eleven in St Andrew's Hall and thirty-one in Blackfriars' Hall. The paintings here range from the late sixteenth century through to the early nineteenth century.

That, in a nutshell, is just a snippet of The Halls' fascinating story. Now let them tell yours...

The Garth



*'make the churche a fayer and large halle, well pathed, for the mayor and his bretheren... for their common assemblies...'*

# Corporate events

Whether it is large multi-roomed conferences or smaller workshop-style meetings, The Halls has an outstanding track record of hosting successful corporate events. From the grandeur of St Andrew's and the finesse of Blackfriars', to the breathtaking artistry of The Crypt, our rooms are sure to

impress your delegates; adding a unique touch of majesty to your event. See page 15 for all rates and hire details.

With its in-house bar facilities and the capacity to bring in your own caterers, The Halls can cater for business breakfasts, pop-up cafés, working lunches and even

multi-course formal dinners and receptions to give your event an even more memorable impact.

Our fully licensed bar can be opened at whatever time you wish, or can pop-up to provide a wine tasting experience for your guests by prior arrangement.



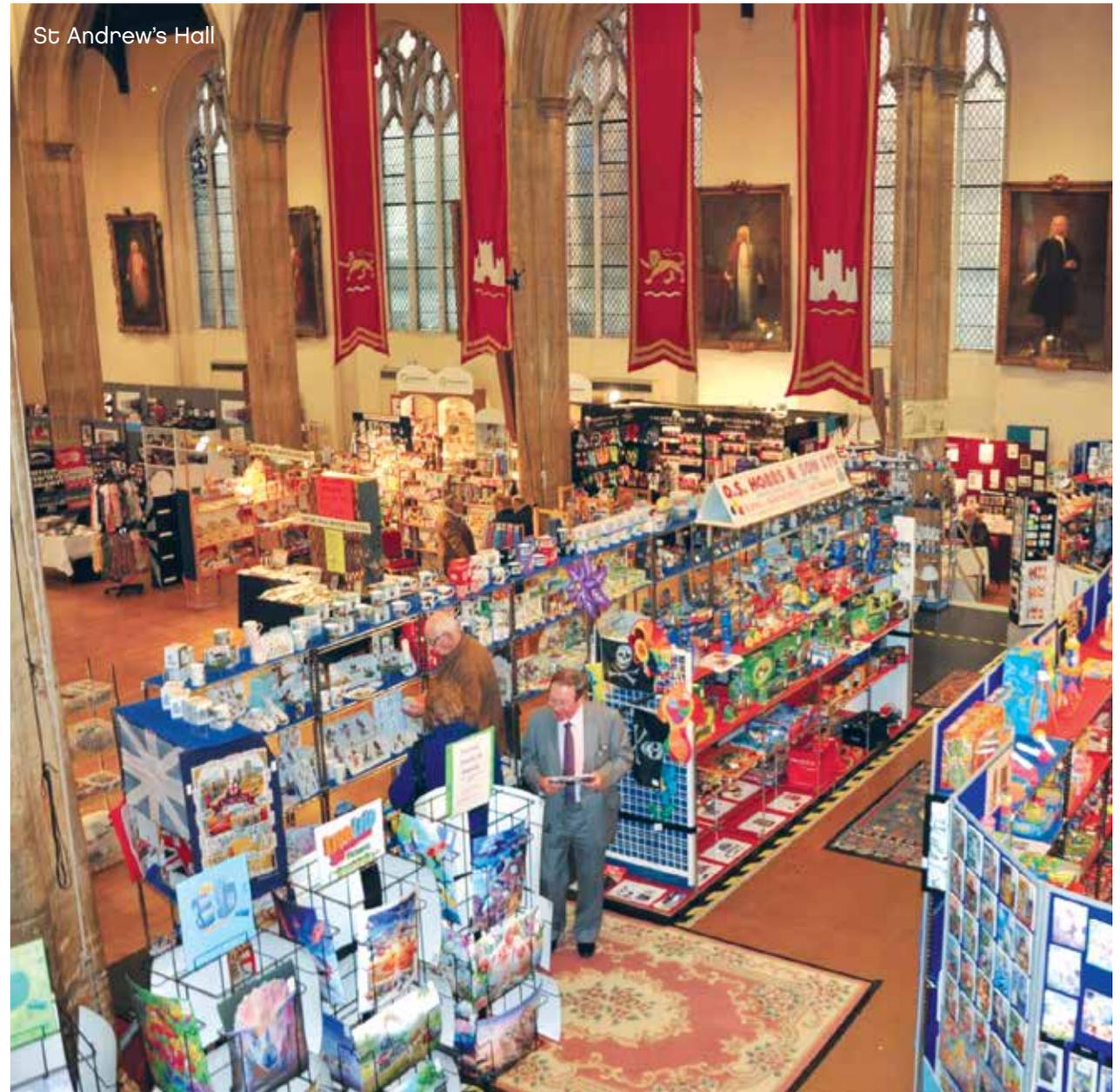
# Specification guide

## St Andrew's Hall

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers
<b>Conference</b> (theatre style seating)	720	690
<b>Exhibition</b> (6ft unit)	80	70
(8ft unit)	65	55

## Blackfriars' Hall

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers
<b>Conference</b> (theatre style seating)	250	220
<b>Side stage</b>	220	200
<b>Exhibition</b> (6ft unit)	35	30
(8ft unit)	30	25



## Concerts

St Andrew's Hall is a fabulous concert venue. It has featured strongly in the Norfolk & Norwich Festival calendar since 1824, hosted orchestras from The Britten Sinfonia to the London Philharmonic, and is the main residence for the Norwich Phil. It also hosts a regular array of performances by established jazz, brass, rock and pop acts. See page 15 for all rates and hire details.

The stage is fixed, and can be extended out into the auditorium by either 6 feet or 8 feet. It also has a retractable tiered gallery which can be used to hold a choir of 150, supporting an orchestra of up to 100 on stage.





Blackfriars' Hall can support functions in the main hall by acting either as a VIP reception to the main event, or as a green room for the visiting band, orchestra or support staff. A special fixed rate of £145 has been applied to Blackfriars' when it is supporting a main event in this way. Alternatively, for more intimate acoustic concerts such as piano recitals, Blackfriars' Hall can be used as a performance space in its own right.

## Specification guide

### St Andrew's Hall

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers
<b>Theatre style</b> (no extension)	763	720
<b>Theatre style</b> (6ft or 8ft extension)	723	680
<b>People on stage</b>	100	90
<b>People on tiers</b>	130	100
<b>People in choir galleries</b> (x2)	15	10

## Dining events

Both Blackfriars' and St Andrew's offer a regal setting for any dining event, whether as part of a festival, a reception or an awards dinner. Having hosted royal banquets as part of its intriguing story, The Halls can cater with considerable style everything from finger buffets to five course, silver service meals – thanks to its industrial kitchen.

Grand dinners can be served by your own choice of catering company, through the hire of the industrial standard kitchen located along the south side of Blackfriars' Hall.

The Halls has its own fully licensed bar, and our in-house bar company can also supply and serve a wide variety of wine at your tables. Or, if you prefer, you may supply your own wines (subject to a corkage fee).

See page 15 for all rates and hire details.





## Specification guide

### St Andrew's Hall

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers	effective minimum
<b>Dinner</b> (oblong tables)	500	450	250
<b>Dinner</b> (round tables)	300	220	96
<b>Dinner and dance</b>	350	300	100

### Blackfriars' Hall

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers	effective minimum
<b>Dinner</b> (oblong tables)	240	200	50
<b>Dinner</b> (round tables)	112	96	40
<b>Dinner and dance</b>	140	120	75

# Fairs and Festivals

The Halls are already very well known as the home of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) Beer Festival each year, the largest such festival in the country.

The seemingly inexhaustible solutions The Halls offer for fair and festival events has seen its popularity of hosting them increase over the past few years. From trade fairs to antique markets, and specialist evenings to wedding spectaculars, The Halls add that touch of magic and grandeur, to set your event apart.

Under separate arrangement, The Halls can supply a list of local catering companies that can offer a complete café package offering hot and cold food, snacks, pastries and beverages, to keep your customers on site. Should you wish to serve alcoholic beverages, The Halls fully licensed bar can cater for any need, by prior arrangement, subject to number of attendees.

See page 15 for all rates and hire details.

## Specification guide

### St Andrew's Hall

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers
Market/fair (6ft unit)	80	70
(8ft unit)	65	55

### Blackfriars' Hall

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers
Market/fair (6ft unit)	40	35
(8ft unit)	30	25



St Andrew's Hall



## Intimate business and private functions

Despite the grandeur and elegance of the main halls, The Crypt, Becket's Chapel -especially in the summer – and our first floor break-out rooms offer a much more intimate atmosphere; ideal for events where the numbers attending are between 10 and 50 people.



The Cloisters is an excellent space as a gallery, or can be sectioned off to create smaller spaces, or even used as a support space to the main hall. At the centre of The Cloisters a pair of doors opens onto the ancient grassed area of The Garth, providing extra spill-out space.



These smaller rooms have hosted a wide variety of events, from training sessions and business meetings to performance art, photo shoots and even birthday parties.

See page 15 for all rates and hire details.

## Specification guide

### The Crypt

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers
Training/lecture	50	40
VIP reception (standing room)	70	50

Floor space: 8.5m x 9m  
(with column almost dead centre)

### Erpingham and Paston rooms

Event type	maximum numbers	optimum numbers
Training/lecture	25 (each)	20 (each)
Board meeting	15 (each)	10 (each)

### The Cloisters

Floor space: 3m x 50m

### Becket's Chapel (remains of)

Floor space: 18m x 6m



## Civil partnerships, weddings and ceremonies



St Andrew's Hall



St Andrew's Hall, Blackfriars' Hall and The Crypt (with Beckett's) are registered for civil ceremonies. A ceremony booking is for three hours and includes the layout of chairs and red carpet.

The Crypt (with Beckett's) will hold up to 50 people, Blackfriars' Hall is ideal for 50 to 200 people, and we recommend St Andrew's Hall if the guest list exceeds 200.

### Rates

(a three hour booking between 9am and 6pm)

#### The Crypt (with Beckett's)

Monday to Friday £500  
Saturday or Sunday £1000

#### Blackfriars' Hall

Monday to Friday £600  
Saturday or Sunday £1200

#### St Andrew's Hall

Monday to Friday £700  
Saturday or Sunday £1400

# Room hire prices

## Minimum hire periods

Three hours – weekdays

Four hours – evenings and weekends.

Space	Day rate per hour (7.30am to 6pm)	Evening rate per hour (6pm to 2am)
St Andrew's	£100	£160
Blackfriars'	£75	£95
The Crypt (if also hiring a main hall)	£55 £30	£75 £55
The Cloisters (only with hire of main hall)	£25	£50

## Meeting rooms

£45 per morning (9am -1pm) or afternoon (1- 5pm) session.

## Green room

Blackfriars only alongside hire of St Andrew's for concerts – £145 for up to 5 hours.

## Cloister dressing rooms

£125 per day

## Kitchen

Half day (up to 9 hours) – £230, full day £420, full week £2100





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