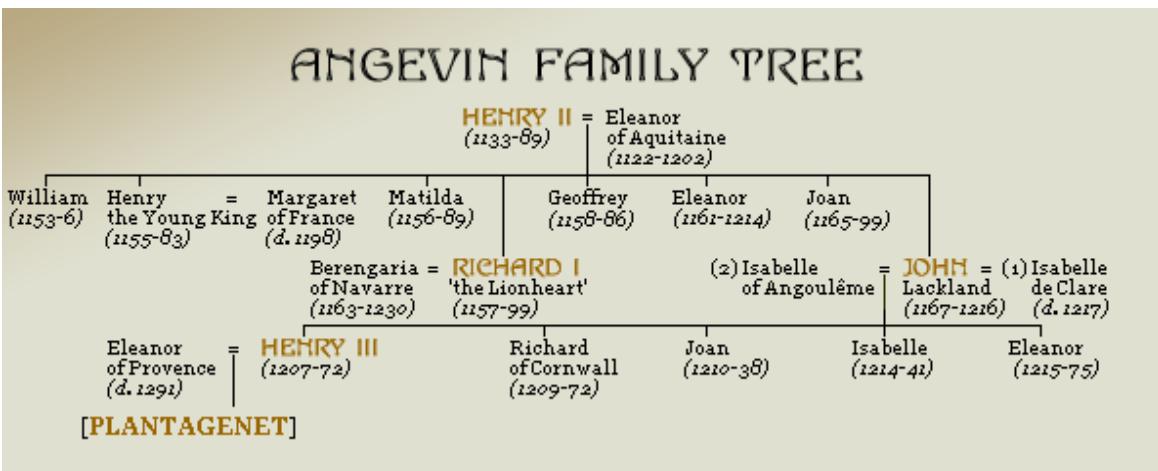
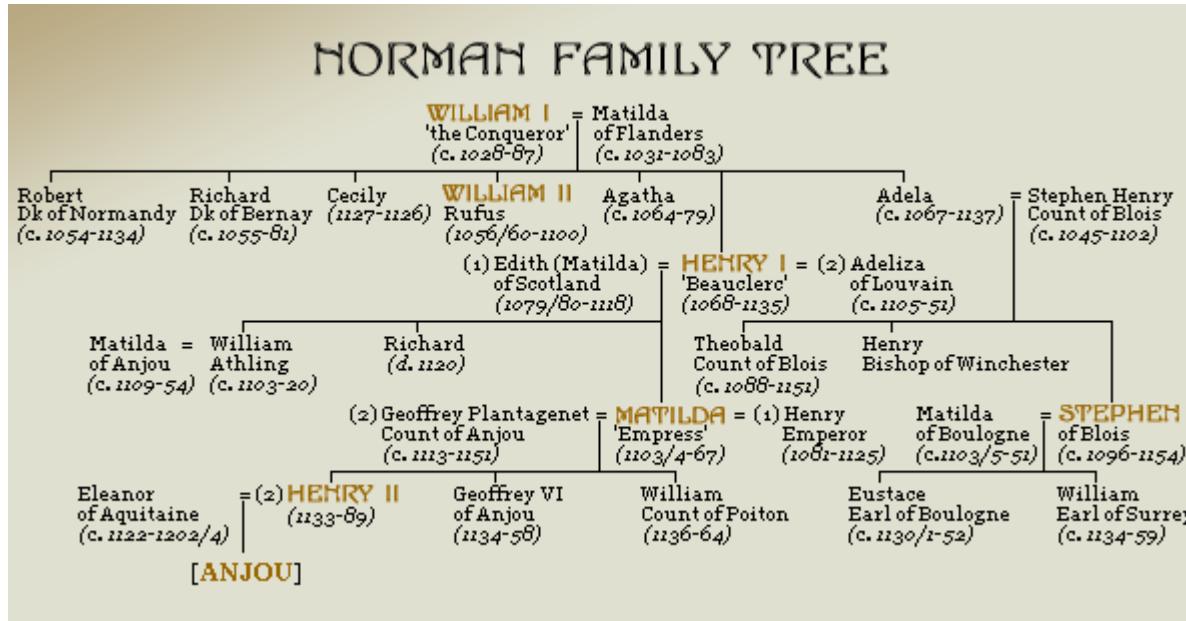
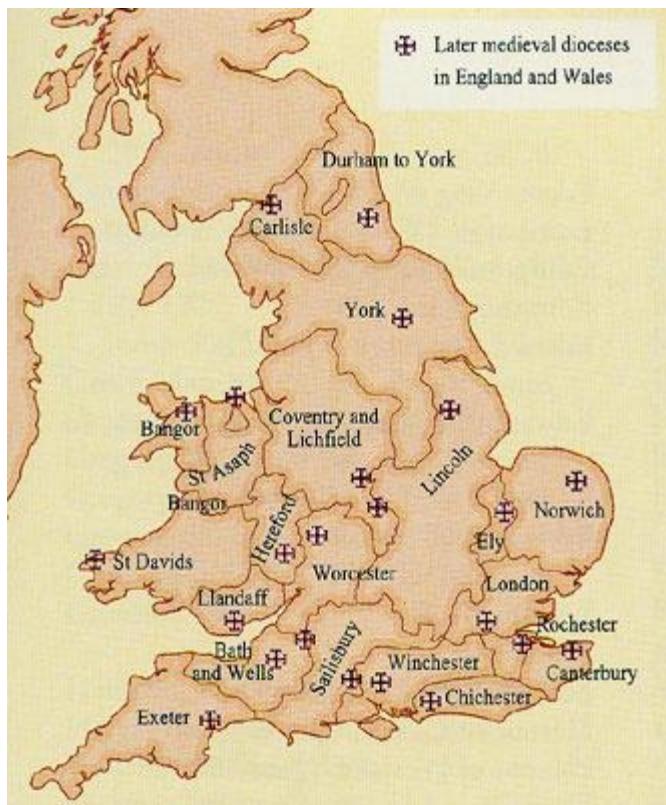
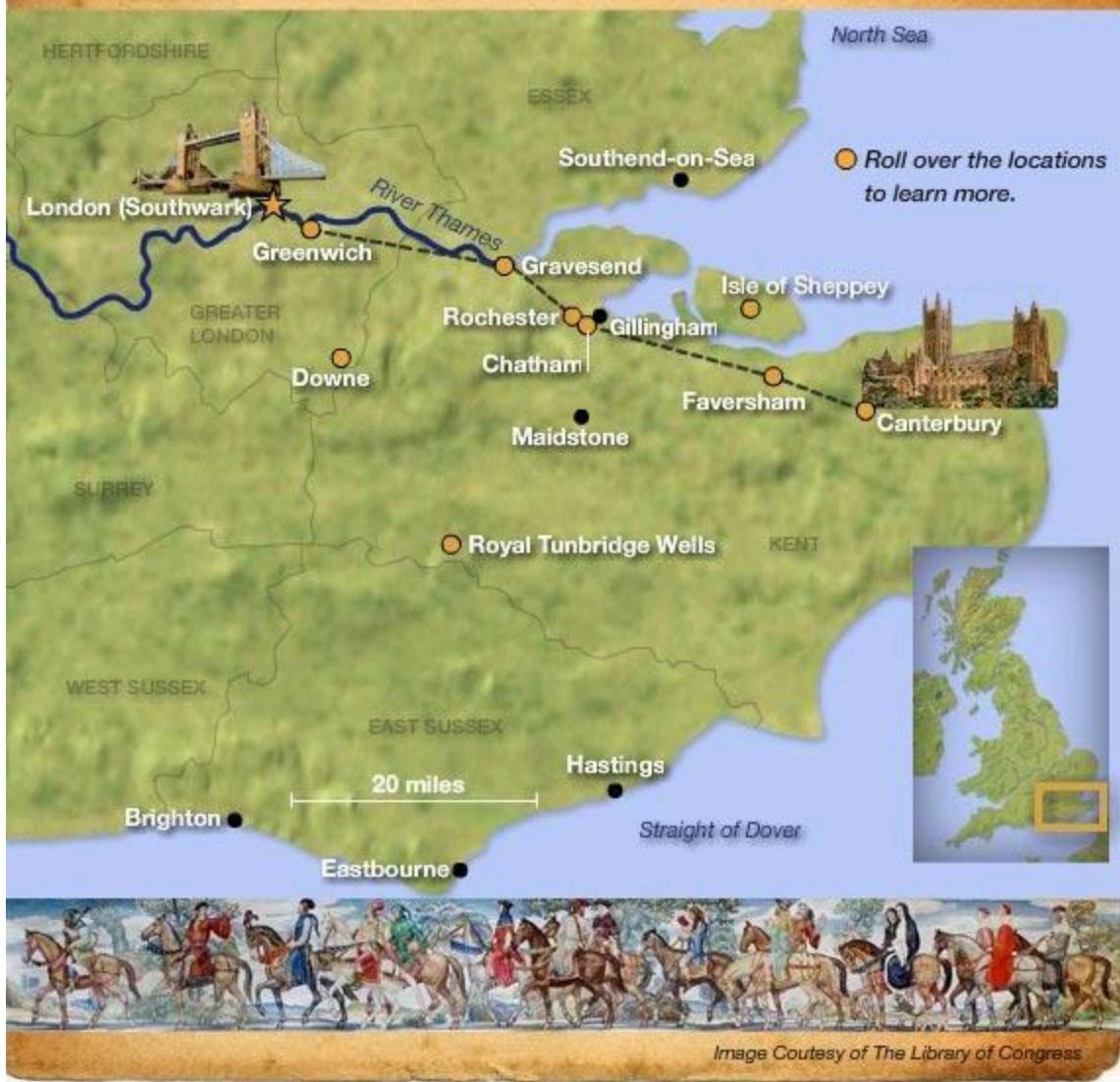


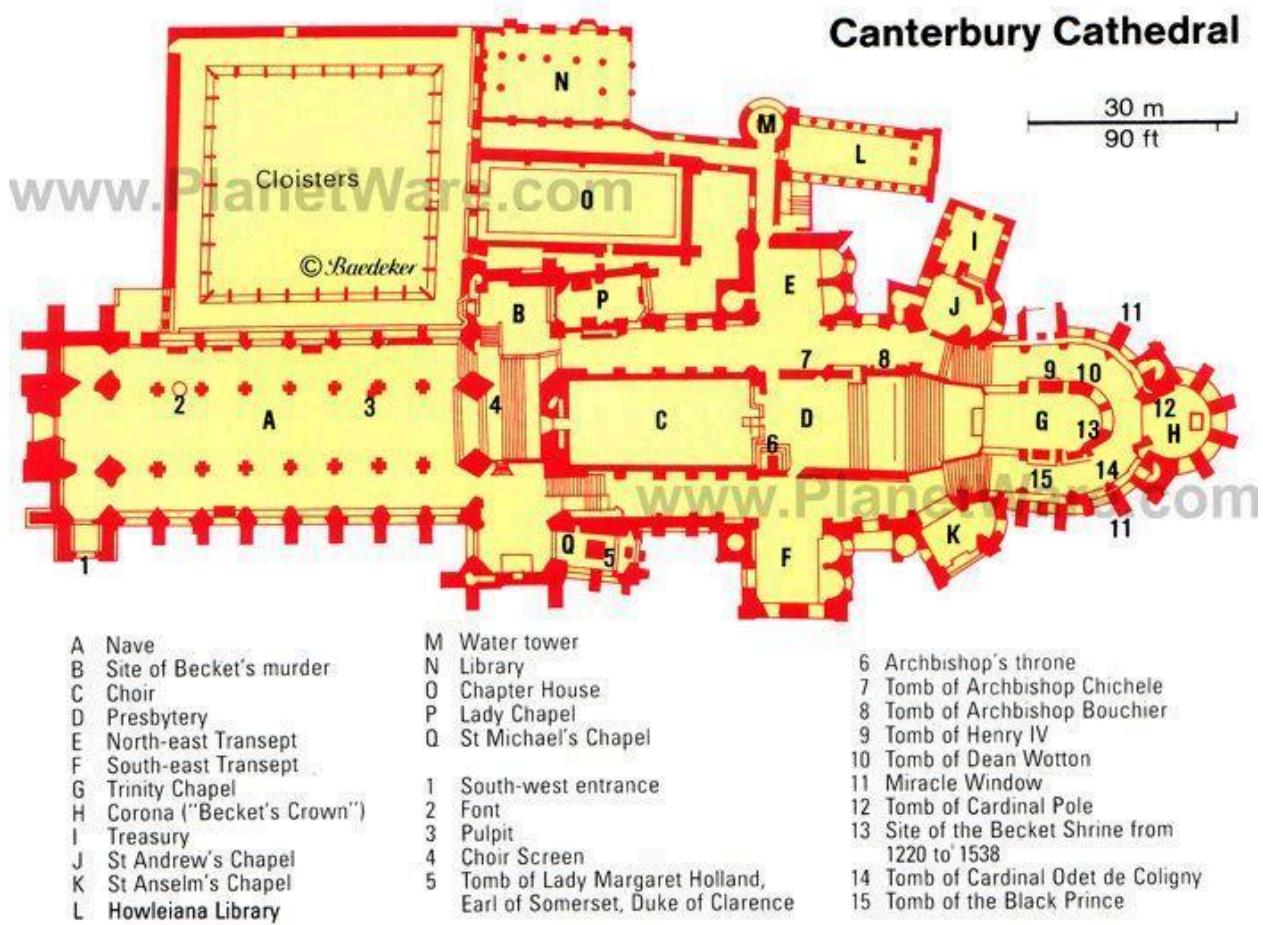
Thomas Becket: A Martyr for All Seasons  
 Smithsonian Associates  
 Jennifer Paxton  
 Wed., Jan. 8, 2024





# Revisiting The Road To Canterbury





### A Brief Chronology of the St. Thomas Becket and His Cult

- 1066 Norman Conquest of England
- 1100-35 Reign of Henry I, youngest son of William the Conqueror
- 1119 Birth of Thomas Becket in Cheapside, London
- 1120 Wreck of the White Ship and drowning of the heir to the English throne
- 1139 Becket studies in Paris
- c. 1140 Becket begins a career as a clerk, and eventually joins the household of Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury (1139-61)
- 1135-54 Reign of King Stephen, nephew of William the Conqueror
- 1139-53 Civil war between Stephen and Matilda, daughter of Henry I

1154-89	<b>Reign of Henry II, son of Matilda</b>
1154	<b>Archbishop Theobald appoints Becket as archdeacon of Canterbury</b>
1155	<b>Henry II appoints Becket as chancellor of England</b>
1162	<b>Henry II orders the English clergy not to make judicial appeals to Rome</b>
May 23	<b>Henry II appoints Becket archbishop of Canterbury</b>
1163	
July	<b>Council of Woodstock: clash between king and archbishop over payments to sheriffs</b>
October	<b>Council of Westminster: clash between king and archbishop over handing criminous clerks over to royal authority</b>
1164	
Jan. 30	<b>Henry II enacts Constitutions of Clarendon, exerting royal authority over various legal rights of the church</b>
	<b>At an unspecified date, Becket and the bishops defy the king</b>
Oct. 6	<b>Council of Northampton: Becket is convicted of perjury</b>
Nov. 2	<b>Becket departs for exile in France and Henry II confiscates his possessions</b>
1169	
Jan. 6	<b>Becket and Henry II meet at Montmirail in France, Becket does homage to Henry, and Henry agrees that Becket should return to England</b>
1170	
June 14	<b>Henry II's eldest son is crowned by the archbishop of York, abrogating the traditional privilege of the archbishop of Canterbury to crown the king</b>
July 22	<b>Becket and Henry II meet at Freteval in France on cordial terms</b>
After Dec. 1	<b>Henry hears that Becket is planning to excommunicate him</b>
Dec. 29	<b>Becket is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four royal knights</b>
1173	<b>Becket is canonized by Pope Alexander III</b>
1378-1400	<b>Composition of <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> by Sir Geoffrey Chaucer</b>
1534	<b>Act of Supremacy makes Henry VIII head of the Church of England</b>
1538	<b>Destruction of the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral</b>
1935	<b>Premiere of T. S. Eliot's play <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> at the Canterbury Festival</b>
1959	<b>Premiere of Jean Anouilh's play <i>Becket, or the Honour of God</i> in Paris</b>
1960	<b>Premiere of Anouilh's <i>Becket</i> on Broadway</b>

1964                   **Release of film adaptation of Anouilh's play starring Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole**

2016                   **Temporary repatriation of some Becket relics from Hungary to Canterbury Cathedral**

Partially adapted from: <http://www.totallytimelines.com/thomas-becket-1119-1170/>