A Brief History

- c960: First Benedictine monks settle at Thorney Island, later to become Westminster
- 1065: December 28th, Edward the Confessor’s Abbey dedicated
- 1066: Christmas Day, first recorded Coronation in the Abbey, of William the Conqueror
- 1245: Henry III begins building the present church
- 1301: Coronation Chair made, it has been used at every Coronation since 1308
- 1400: Geoffrey Chaucer buried in the south transept
- 1503: Henry VII begins construction of the Lady Chapel
- 1540: Dissolution of the monastery by Henry VIII
- 1560: Elizabeth establishes the Abbey as a collegiate church
- 1745: West towers completed
- 1920: Unknown Warrior buried in the nave
- 1953: Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
- 1997: Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales
- 2002: Funeral of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
- 2010: His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI attends a Service of Evening Prayer
- 2011: Wedding of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

Key to locations

1. Coronation Chair
   * Ask a marshal in a red gown for entry to the nave
2. Tomb of the Unknown Warrior
3. Scientists’ Corner
4. Quire
5. High Altar and Cosmati Pavement
6. Tombs of medieval kings and queens
7. Tomb of Elizabeth I and Mary I
8. Lady Chapel and tomb of Henry VII
9. Poets’ Corner and tomb of Geoffrey Chaucer
10. Cloisters
11. Chapter House
12. Pyx Chamber dating from 1070

After your visit please follow signs for the exit through the Great West Door.