



The Entrance Hall

This hall and the parallel undercroft created the firm foundation for the first floor hall built for Bishop Jocelin (1206 — 1244). Using the red and yellow triassic limestone, the mason chose the finer doulting stone for the vaulting. Before the 16th century fireplace was installed the space would have been heated with charcoal braziers.

The windows contain fragments of Rouen stained glass which Bishop Law (1824 — 1845) collected after the destruction of church windows during the French Revolution. This glass along with pieces of 15th and 19th century English glass decorate many of the Palace and Chapel windows. Spiral stone stairs at both ends of the hall provided access to the first floor Hall and Long Gallery. In the seventeenth century one of the stone spiral stairs was replaced by the wooden staircase you can see today.

Items of Interest

- The long refectory table where Bishop Ken shared meals with 12 poor men and women when he was in residence
- Bishop Beckynton's coat of arms (1443 - 1465) which is to the left of the wooden Jacobean staircase
- Bishop Henderson's coat of arms (1960 –1975) above the door leading to the chapel
- Tudor fireplace with coat of arms combining arms of Bath and Wells
- Windows with medieval glass fragments
- Seventeenth century wooden Jacobean staircase

Where next?

- Go to the Undercroft through either of the two doors
- Go to the Bishop's Chapel through the white arched doorway
- Go to the first floor up the wooden Jacobean staircase