

FROM ST NICOLAS CHURCH ...

It is thought that Birger Jarl, the founder of the city of Stockholm, commissioned the erection of a church at the highest point of the island called Stadsholmen in the mid-13th century. Under the vestry, parts of the foundations date from this period. The first written mention of the church is dated 1279. The oldest parts of today's brick church were consecrated in 1306. Major conversions and extensions took place in the 14th and 15th centuries. The church reached its current size as a five-aisled hall church in the 1480s. Most of the fittings and adornment were added towards the end of the 17th century, such as the Royal Pews and the Pulpit. But even our times have made their mark on the church: the plaster encasing the pillars was removed in 1908 and the brickwork was polished to give the cathedral a medieval look.

The exterior of the church was rebuilt in 1736–42 in Italian Baroque style to be a more appropriate complement to the Royal Palace, which had also been recently rebuilt.

... TO CATHEDRAL

Stockholm Cathedral is the local church of the inhabitants of Stockholm's Old Town [Gamla Stan]. It was given cathedral status in 1942 in the new diocese of Stockholm. The Bishop of Stockholm ordains priests and deacons in the Cathedral and delivers sermons at some of its services.

The marriage ceremony for King Carl XVI Gustaf and Silvia Sommerlath was held here on 19 June 1976, and on the same date in 2010 the Crown princess Victoria was married to Daniel Westling.

The Cathedral is attuned to what goes on in society. The Cathedral Academy arranges regular talks, seminars and lectures on topics related to theology, culture and questions important for the society. High Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 11 a.m. There is an extended program during July and August for welcoming visitors from the wide world.

Stockholm Cathedral's extensive musical activities maintain an old tradition of skill and diversity, characterized in particular by high-quality music during services. The Cathedral offers regular concerts, when major sacred choral works of different eras are sung; an example is the *Messiah* by Händel that is performed in December each year since the 1920s.

OUR THANKS

Stockholm Cathedral is one of the smallest parishes in the country, but one of the largest when it comes to the number of visitors. Thank you for paying your entrance fee. Thanks to your support we will be able to continue our work and keep the buildings in good condition.

The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral

Welcome to Stockholm Cathedral

People have streamed through the Cathedral's doors for centuries. They have left their mark, while taking new impressions back home with them.

Your visit here today is the most recent link in this chain. Each person who enters the Cathedral – like each picture, each detail of the building's interior and each word spoken or sung – is part of a living context that our services and other activities preserve and usher into the future. This amazing Cathedral Church testifies to this connection between the past, the present and the future.



Svenska
kyrkan

Stockholms
domkyrkoförsamling

4. THE SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLESTICK

is a candelabra made of bronze with a height of 3.7 metres. It was probably made in the Netherlands in the 13th century and has adorned the Cathedral for more than 600 years.

3. THE LAST JUDGEMENT

is depicted on this enormous painting created by David Klöcker von Ehrenstrahl in 1696. Another work by the same artist, in the south side-aisle, depicts the crucifixion. Both pictures were painted for the chapel in former Royal Palace, the Castle of the Three Crowns, and were rescued from the fire that destroyed the Castle in 1697. They were formally donated to Stockholm Cathedral in 1777.

2. ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

is a very well-preserved sculptural ensemble, unequalled among its kind and carved out of oak, probably by Berndt Notke of Lübeck, with details made of materials such as elk antlers and horsehair. It was consecrated in 1489 as an altar monument for the shrine to St. George. It was commissioned by Sten Sture the Elder, who had conquered the forces of King Christian of Denmark, thereby rescuing Stockholm from the Danish invaders.

The legend of St. George and the Dragon tells of a terrible dragon that demanded human offerings from the town of Selene as its price for not destroying the town. The day the King's daughter was to be sacrificed, St. George came riding by. On condition that the town's heathen inhabitants converted to Christianity, he killed the dragon.

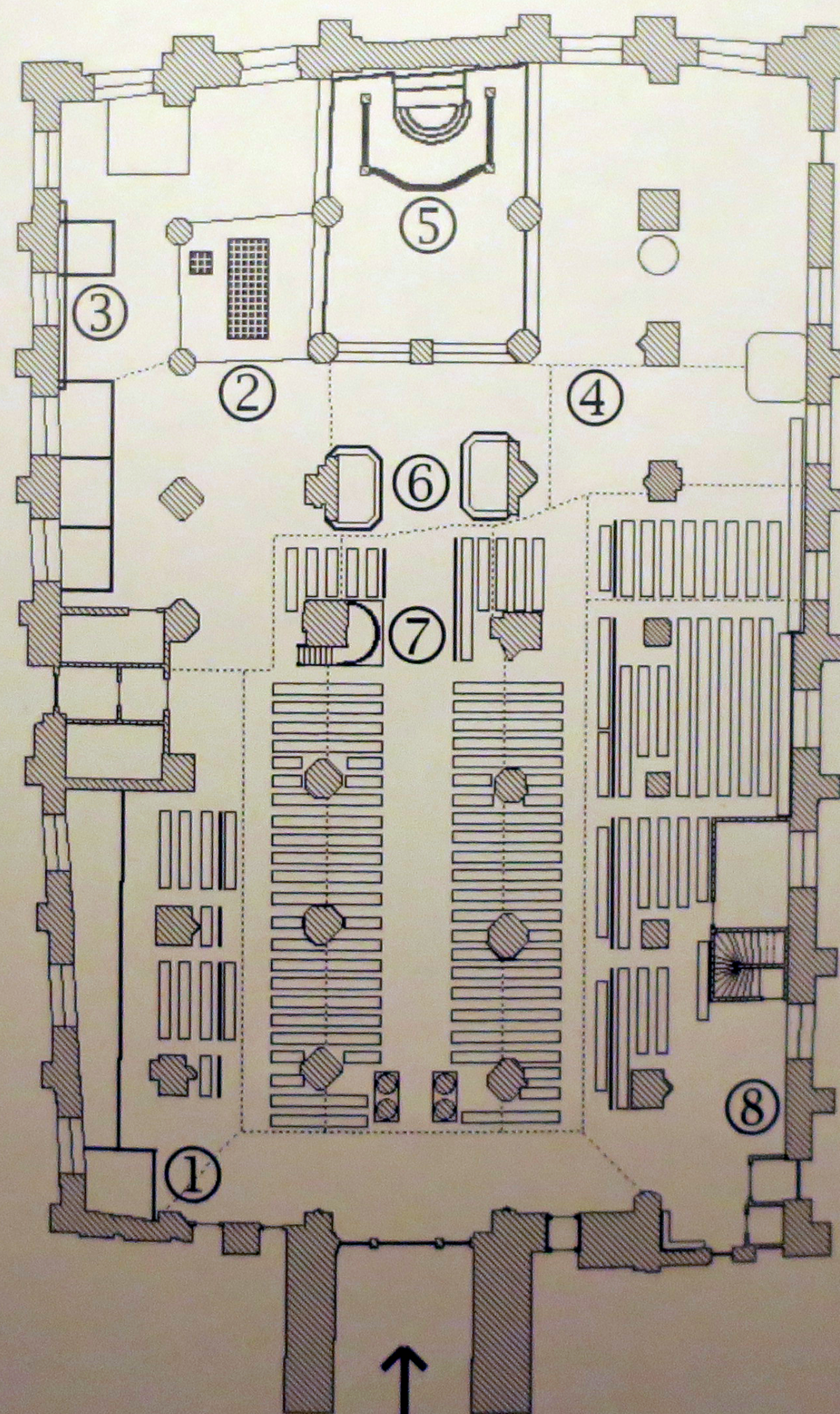
In St. George, Sten Sture probably wanted to see himself as the knight who conquered the Danish 'dragon', thereby saving the princess (Stockholm) from ruin. For people to-day, this amazing monument provides inspiration to take up the struggle against evil – wherever it might appear.

1. THE CANDLE GLOBE

is a place for prayers and the lighting of candles for the world that the globe represents. It has been in the Cathedral since 1972 and is the work of the artist Torolf Engström. Here people from around the globe gather to pray and think about what is important for them

5. THE SILVER ALTAR

is made of ebony and silver and was donated to the Cathedral in the 1650s by Johan Adler Salvius, a successful diplomate, and his wife Margareta Pedersdotter, a very rich widow, to commemorate the peace treaty in Westphalia after the war of 30 years. The central section was made in Germany.



ENTRANCE

6. THE ROYAL PEWS

are used only by members of the Royal Family when attending official ceremonies in the Cathedral. The pews were designed by Nicodemus Tessin the Younger in 1684, after he had been in Rome and seen the works of Bernini. They were carved out of wood by Burchardt Precht. The flamboyant baroque style of the pews set the tone for much of the later interior fittings and adornment of the Cathedral.

7. THE PULPIT

dates back to 1700, created by the sculptor, Burchardt Precht. The text in Hebrew reads JHVE, I am, the name with which God presents himself to Moses in the burning bush. Under the pulpit lies the tombstone of Olaus Petri, the Swedish Reformer.

8. THE PARHELION PAINTING

depicts a light phenomenon that occurred over Stockholm on 20 April 1535. Six sparkling luminous rings of light, parhelia (sun dogs, or mock suns), were observed in the heavens. They were interpreted to be a revelation of the impending collapse of worldly power, and people flocked to the churches. Olaus Petri, the great reformer and preacher in this church, used the sign to call King Gustav Vasa to his senses and asked the painter Urban Målare to create a permanent depiction of the parhelia. Perhaps the over dimensioned size of the church made people start to call it Big church, its official Swedish name. Recent research has now proved that the present painting is not the original, but a copy from the 1630s

THE ORGAN

was built by Marcussen & Son, in 1960 and has 53 stops. The facade of the organ was created in 1789.

THE BELLS

in the tower are four in total, of which the largest weighs 6 tonnes.