



## Misericords

These 26 elaborately carved wooden seats date from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and were used by the priests participating in the daily services.

The name *Misericord* comes from the Latin 'misericordia' which means 'an act of mercy', and they were just that, as the elderly priests were not allowed to sit (a sign of irreverence) and therefore rested their bodyweight on the small ledge of the upright seat, whilst appearing to be standing. A daily programme of 6-7 services per day was normal at the time.

The carved images of angels looking to Heaven in adoration, contrasted totally with the variety of bizarre images under the seats. The range of carvings depict some religious origins, pagan and ancient fables and strange imaginary animals together with domestic scenes, many humorous and mocking in nature.

There is no charge for your visit

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