



Bespoke Cope Guide



Thank you for your interest in commissioning a bespoke cope for your church. With all bespoke commissions, there are quite a lot of design details to consider; this document intends to guide you through the different aspects of your new vestments.

We have detailed the design process in four main steps:

1 - Style

2 - Fabrics

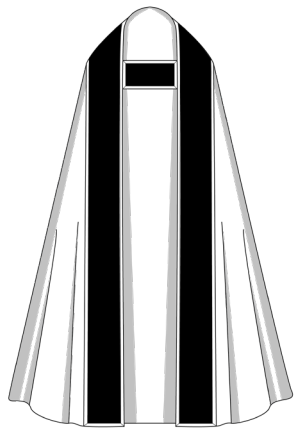
3 - Trims

4 - Embroidery

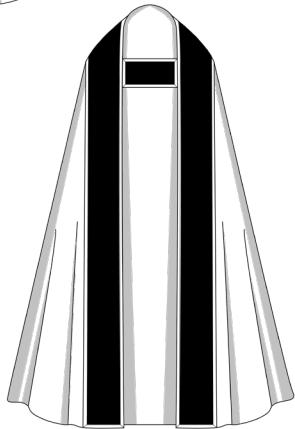
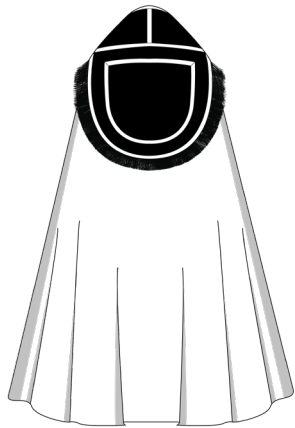
Step One - Style

The first step to ordering your new cope is to decide which style you would like. Our cope patterns are based on centuries of tradition, and we can accommodate any preference. If you are unsure about the correct back length for your cope, we're always happy to offer guidance or even measure you ourselves.

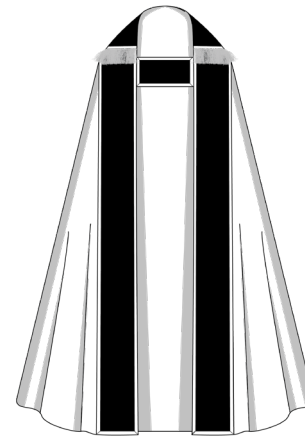
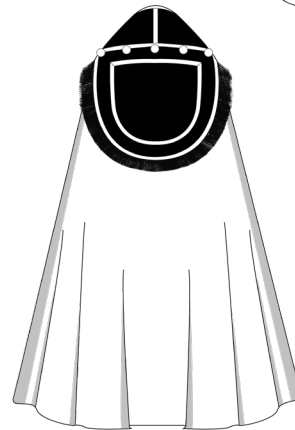
You can also choose whether your cope has contrast or outline orphreys (as well as an option for thinner, Sarum-style orphreys).



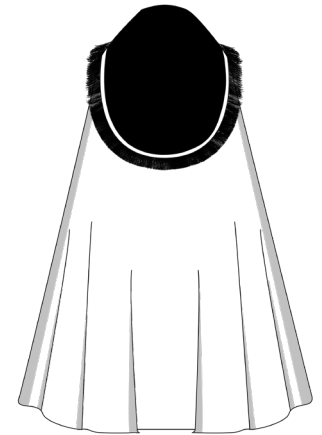
Westminster



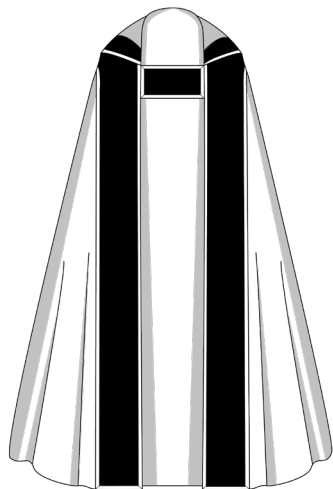
Minster



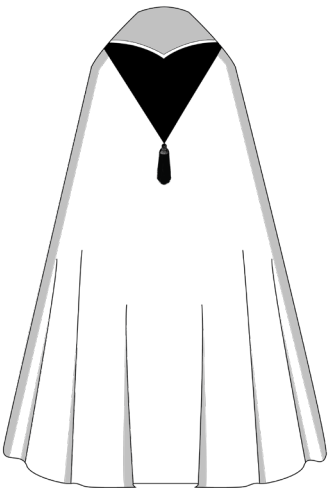
Cathedral



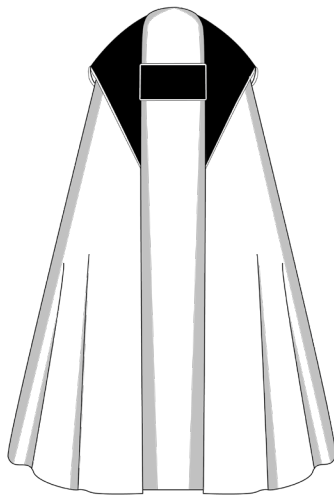
Step One - Style (continued)



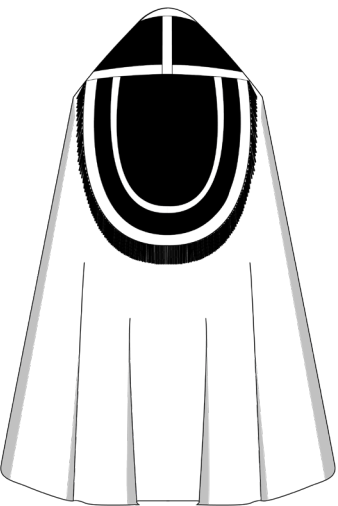
Abbey



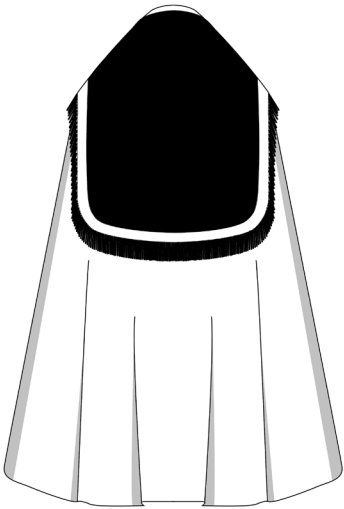
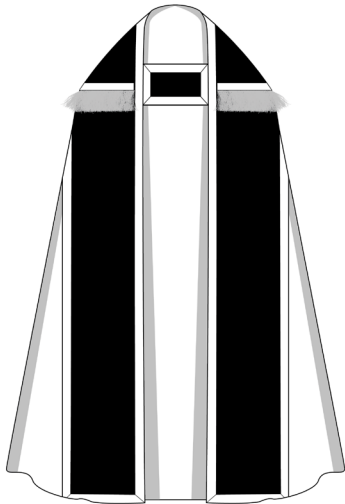
Portsmouth



Spanish



French



Step Two - Fabrics

The next step is to choose your main fabric and any contrasting orphreys. We are pleased to offer over 200 exclusive fabrics, including a range of luxurious pure silks and silk blends.

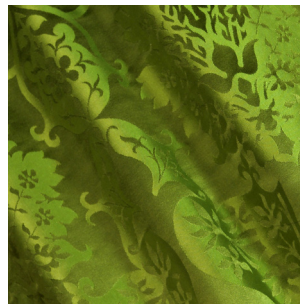
Our experienced design team is on hand to guide you through the possible combinations, and to help with decision making if needed. Below is a selection of some of our favourite fabrics for vestments.



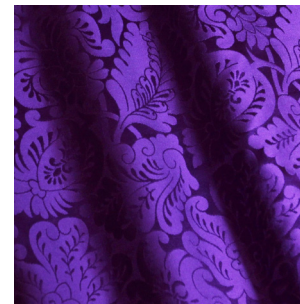
Comper Cathedral - Cream



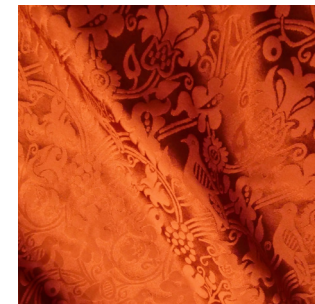
Bellini - Comper Purple



Gothic - Green



Holbein - Royal Purple



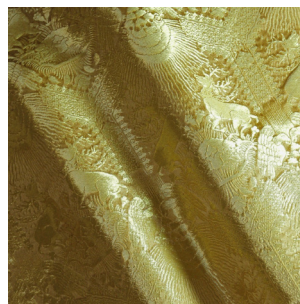
Hilliard - Sarum Red



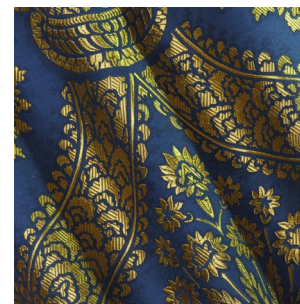
Comper Strawberry - Gold,
Blue, Purple



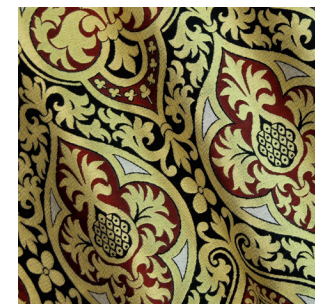
Crevelli - Brocatelle Garnet



Stag - Cloth of Gold



Memlinc - Blue & Gold



Talbot - Black

Please get in contact if you would like samples of any the fabrics you are interested in.

Step Three - Trims

The next step is to decide the style and colour of trims for your cope's orphreys, hood, and morse. Select from our wide range of braids and fringes - including our exclusive 'Diamond & Lay' which are colour-matched to our silks. Please view our [trimmings guide](#) for the full range of styles and colours available.

For an additional charge, we can also include small cord, braid, or fringe on the hem of the cope for extra cohesion.



Our 'Diamond & Lay' trims in Black / Gold. Pictured here: 2" fringe, 1" braid, 1/2" braid, and small cord.

You also need to choose how you would like your cope to be lined: in cotton sateen, or luxury silk taffeta for an additional cost.

Step Four - Embroidery

An additional step is to consider any embroidery that you may like. Our talented team of hand-embroiderers can cater to any design you desire, and our design team can offer suggestions on what might be most suitable for your church. We specialise in traditional hand embroidery techniques, such as goldwork, silk shading, appliqué, as well as the highest forms of artist-led machine embroidery.

Let us know where you would like embroidery on your cope - perhaps on the hood, along the orphreys, or even across the whole vestment.



Additional Items

You may also be interested in commissioning further items to match, including a stole, mitre, or humeral veil.

Humeral veils are typically 60" long from centre seam (incl. fringe) and 22" wide, but can be adjusted on request. You have the choice of a single orphrey or one orphrey on each side (either contrasting or outline) edged in a braid to match your cope and stole.

Please refer to our other guides for information on stoles and mitres.



Spanish Cope pictured with matching Humeral Veil. In Cream 'Comper Cathedral' with gold bullion fringe at either end and Old Gold 'Burford' braid trims.



Humeral Veil in White 'Goya' with hand embroidered Sacred & Immaculate Heart in goldwork on the rear.

Design Example

In this cope example, we chose a Minster style with contrasting orphreys.

The main fabric here is our Cream 'Holbein', which has been paired with Bellini Blue 'Bellini' orphreys. They are brought together with our Bellini Blue 1/2" 'Diamond & Lay' braid.

Matching 2" fringe has been included at the hem of the cope. It has then been lined in a blue cotton sateen.

In the cope hood, we have hand embroidered a Sacred & Immaculate Heart design in gold-work, using a range of gold bullion and purl. This design is approx. 25cm x 32cm.

Altogether, these elements create a stunning vestment, which has been completed with a matching Tufton-style stole.



Watts's Design Service

For more complex commissions we recommend opting for our design service, where our experienced graphic designers create a 'mock-up' of your potential set. This is available for a deposit against the full order, and you can ask for 3 re-designs if needed. These digital renderings of your design are a great way to visualise new vestments. If you would like any embroidery on your pieces, then our design team can virtually create different options for you to consider, enabling you to be confident in your new set before the fabric is even cut.



Mock-up of a Westminister-style cope with gold bullion and purl embroidery on the hood, morse, and orphreys; in cream 'Comper Cathedral' with Sarum Indigo 'Gothic'. Also features bespoke tassel hood.



Mock-up of a cope hood in Oyster 'Bellini' with Bellini Green 'Diamond & Lay' fringe. Featuring design for a peacock embroidery to be done in silk shading and Japanese Gold Thread.

If you have any questions, please contact us,
we'll be happy to help.

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