

Jot & Tittle Sarum

A personal selection of Salisbury Cathedral, Museum and local history.

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THE CLERGY

If you are like me, and sometimes get confused by clerical terminology, here is an attempt to clarify the vocabulary.

Archbishop: The highest ranking leaders of the Anglican Church, each governing a province or archdiocese. The Archbishop of York is Primate of England and governs the area above the River Trent. The Archbishop of Canterbury is Primate of All England and governs below the River Trent. However he (now she) is also spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion worldwide. The Archbishops are also Metropolitans.

Bishop: The most senior ministers of the Church, with the power to confer Holy Orders and administer Confirmation. They are consecrated to rule a particular diocese and provide spiritual guidance. The Bishop would make periodic Visitations to the Cathedral to see that all was well. Salisbury's bishop is elected by the Dean and Chapter in agreement with the Archbishop of Canterbury. The King used to make his preferred candidate known.

Lords Spiritual: The two Archbishops sit in the House of Lords along with the Bishops of London, Winchester and Durham. Of the remaining diocesan bishops, 21 can sit in the Lords and are chosen on the basis of seniority.

Episcopal See: Geographically synonymous with Diocese, the administrative district of a bishop's seat. The *Cathedra* comes from the Greek word for chair.

Minster: A name given to Cathedrals and large churches and usually administered by monastic or secular canons. They were often in new areas where they spread the Word and built parish churches. Wimborne is a good example. Their name was often incorporated into that of the town such as Beaminster and Axminster or indeed Westminster.

Parish: From the Greek *parochia*, meaning households within a particular area. Usually a village under the control of a Rector.

Right - Donald Pleasance as The Warden Septimus Harding in the Barchester Chronicles, inspired by Salisbury Cathedral.

Rector: The Governor or senior priest of a parish.

Glebe: From *gleba* meaning earth. The rector's income



was enhanced by what was grown on this land attached to the rectory. It could also be rented out.

Tithe: this was the other source of income for the rector. Anglo-Saxon for a tenth, it was a tax on the parish, originally paid in kind. If you were an institution such as a monastery you would need a large tithe barn to accommodate the produce.

Vicar: From *vicarius* meaning vice or substitute. In effect standing in for the Rector. Vicars would originally have received a part of the rector's income.

Curate: Having the *cure of souls* and was paid a stipend. Usually they assisted rectors and vicars.

The Curate's Egg (below): This phrase was popularised by *True Humility*, a cartoon by George du Maurier (French-British cartoonist, illustrator and novelist), published in *Punch* of Saturday 9th November 1895.

Perpetual Curate: This might be established instead of a vicar. He would receive some of the income from the parish. Lewis Carroll was a perpetual curate.



Parson: from Latin *persona*. An old-fashioned term for a parish priest. Priest went out with the Reformation.

Incumbent: The holder of a benefice, but also the holder of any office.

Benefice: From the Latin *beneficium*, property doing good to the holder for their lifetime. There were benefices belonging to the Cathedral in which members of the Chapter took it in turns to nominate the incumbent. Sometimes it was split between the Dean and the Bishop and sometimes between Salisbury and other diocese.

Canon: A member of a college of priests who formed the Chapter of a Cathedral or Minster. Originally, there would have been parochial canons in the diocese and Residentiary Canons who lived in the Close. After the Reformation only the residential canons ran the Cathedral. The others came twice a year unless it was to install a new Dean or Bishop.

Prebend: This was a parish allocated to a canon to provide them with an income. Prebends came under the Dean and Chapter rather than the Bishop.

Dean: The senior member of a college of canons who chaired the Chapter. In the absence of the Dean, another member was voted in as President or *Locum Tenens*. There was a Sub-dean to handle the more mundane tasks.

Precentor: The canon responsible for the choir and worship. Used to be supported by a *Succentor*.

Chancellor: The canon responsible for Education, pastoral care and community engagement. In Salisbury this also covers the volunteers.

Treasurer: The canon responsible for the fabric, treasures and nowadays, sustainability.

Suffragan Bishop: A subordinate bishop, in Salisbury's case two, Ramsbury and Sherborne.

Archdeacons: They looked after a section of the diocese. So for Salisbury there are two, Wilts. and Sherborne. Under Richard Poore there were Archdeaconries of Dorset, Berks. Sarum and Wilts. Berkshire was transferred to Oxford diocese in 1836.

Rural Dean: A senior parish priest looking after a number of parishes. They offer pastoral care to fellow incumbents.

Deacon: From the Greek *diakonos*, servant. An appointed church official below that of a priest.

Minor Canon: Not a member of the Cathedral Chapter and usually refers to the Vicars Choral, adults as opposed to the Choristers.

This information was taken from *A Thousand Years of the English Parish* by Anthea Jones (Windrush Press 2001), *The Concise Dictionary of the Christian Church* by E A Livingstone (Oxford University Press 1996), *Crockford's Clerical Directory* (Church House Publishing 2017) and *The Canons of Salisbury* by Christopher Ross (Dean & Chapter 2000).

ARCHAEOLOGY

Investigation into the external Chantry Chapels of the Cathedral by Tim Tatton-Brown and later by Wessex Archaeology and BBC's Time Team revealed possible evidence of the preparation of the ground prior to the start of building the Cathedral in 1220 in the form of a large chalk raft, laid down to create a dry working platform and to stabilise the ground.



Excavations at the sites of the Bell Tower and Plumbery showed evidence of the wooden structures of the workmen when the area was just a building site. This fits in nicely with Geoff Lang's researches into the city's marketplace which shows that it is older than the Cathedral. No doubt the huge workforce required to build a cathedral in so short a time would need housing, feeding and entertaining. The Bishop obtained a temporary licence from the King to hold a market in 1219.

THE RIGHT WILL

In 1753, Francis Price, Clerk of Works since 1738 wrote a book called *A Series of Observations on the Admirable Structure of the Cathedral-Church of Salisbury*. He refers to the death of William Longespée at Old Sarum castle in 1226 and mentions that his funeral was attended by William Marshall and William de Mandeville (3rd Earl of Essex and Justicar). As I visited London's Temple Church last month, I saw the tomb of the great William Marshall and an effigy (right) of Geoffrey de Mandeville, 2nd Earl of Essex. This is a copy of one of the statues in the House of Commons depicting the 25 *Surety Barons* of Magna Carta. So the William who visited Salisbury must have been William FitzGeoffrey de Mandeville (3rd Earl of Essex), the brother of the Magna Carta Baron.



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