



A Salisbury-Cathedral-centric view of History.

Editor: Mark Brandon: markandsuebrandon@outlook.com

WEBPAGE: jot-and-tittle.com Please note that all editions will best be available by joining the subscribers mailing list, either via the web-page or by e-mail to the editor.

HAUNTS OF COOT AND HURN*

During the 11th Century Rockbourne was part of a group of royal manors: Whitsbury, Breamore, the Charfords and Hale with Breamore being the minster church.

Breamore became a priory about 1130 and Rockbourne was transferred to it from a hospital at Maiden Bradley around 1154 for 100 shillings a year. Manser Bissett was granted the manor of Rockbourne by Henry II. As his wife was a leper he had founded the hospital for leprous women at Maiden Bradley.



St. Andrew's externally looks a bit of a rag-bag but inside is more interesting with its wagon roof (below-left). It has been altered a great deal over its long life but I especially like the detail shown below-right where Roman tiles have been laid in a herringbone pattern which I believe is typical of the 11th century. When we get to the chancel there is a magnificent plaque to Sir Eyre Coote, the Anglo-Irish owner of West Park on the edge of the village. The house has been demolished since but Sir Eyre's monument has survived.





You may recall from your schooldays that Eyre Coote was a successful general in the East India Company Army and did much to conquer the native rulers. He was very popular with the sepoy who admired his bravery. He retired on various occasions and became an MP but was always being called back to fight. At last he had a stroke in India and was brought back to England and buried in St. Andrews church. However, he also has a monument in Westminster Abbey and his likeness is in the National Portrait Gallery (above, attributed to Henry Robert Morland *and in the public domain*). *Incidentally, the title was pinched from Alfred Lord Tennyson's *The Brook*.

THE OTHER SALOME

Bishop John Wordsworth [1843 - 1911] had three children, daughter Salome Pelly recalls her idyllic childhood that included playing camping on the island in the pond. *The pond was on the far side of the paddock and beyond it were elms, beeches, Scotch pines, and chestnut trees standing in waste ground known as Cold Harbour - to be used by any homeless man whenever he needed it said my Father.* She also remarked that the east wall was provided with wide steps to a ledge just below the battlements, so that on tip toe even a small child could look over and shoot arrows at the sheep and cows, dogs and hens going to and from the market.... at sheep fair time there were thousands of sheep with shepherds going to the Wilton Sheep Fair.

Salome also recalls that they had hay parties with the Choir Boys, sports with the Bishop's School boys and in winter everyone skated on the pond. When the Bishop was involved with conferences and ordination retreats the children were *packed off to stay with grandparents, or more blissfully to our cottage at Lulworth which was next the sea.* Another occupation was checking the palace windows from the outside and then *exploring up spiral staircases in towers and turrets which led to uninhabited attics and gables* to see if there were any unknown rooms. *We did find two such rooms.*

The hayrick and hayloft were ideal for making houses and castles. *These were often stormed by the four Squarey boys, who rode over from Bemerton with their bare-back pony Tiny and with whom, it seemed, we played every day for ever and ever.* [I assume that these were the children of the Cathedral's surveyor and valuer of Rawlence & Squarey]. On 16th August 1911 - while the children were

enjoying an enormous fete in Victoria Park with regimental bands, roundabouts, and swings and coconut shys, and Aunt Sallys, and tables for hoop-la that meant throwing rings over delectable china pigs, and dolls and shells and goldfish bowls - a tall black-coated cleric appeared and in the middle of the ride of the Scots Greys shook hands with them saying 'Come home, you must all come home at once. Your Father has died'..... The halcyon days were ended; Yes, we felt like Adam and Eve, bereft of our garden.

Rosa Salome (right) was born in 1900 and died in 1995, she was a doctor. I am a little surprised that a bishop would name his daughter *Salome* although, strictly speaking, Herodias' daughter who demanded the head of John the Baptist is not named in the New Testament.



THE WEST FRONT

As a guide I rather shied away from the complexities of Salisbury Cathedral's West Front. The *Vade Mecum* for those wishing to unravel the iconographical scheme is *Salisbury Cathedral The West Front* edited by Tim Ayers and published by Phillimore & Co. Ltd. in 2000. The contributor writers are Tim Tatton-Brown, Tim Ayers, Jerry Sampson, Emma Hardy, Eddie Sinclair, Anthony Hamber, Michael Drury and Nicholas Durnan. It is a complex book but at this stage I just want to focus on the niches and the figures that they housed.

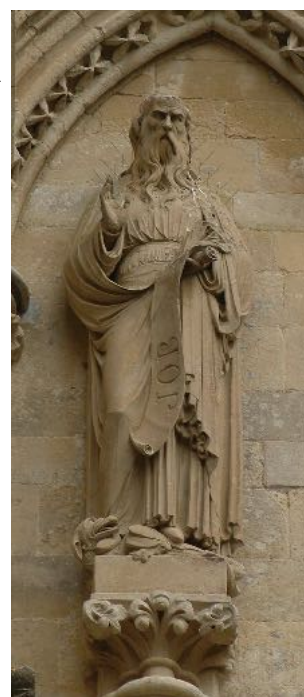
Page 190 carries the drawing and key to sculptures copied here on page 4. Many of course are lost but for the Middle Ages we have St. Peter at 86 and St. Paul at 95, St. John the Evangelist at 129 and at 145 St. John the Baptist. 150 was originally St. James.

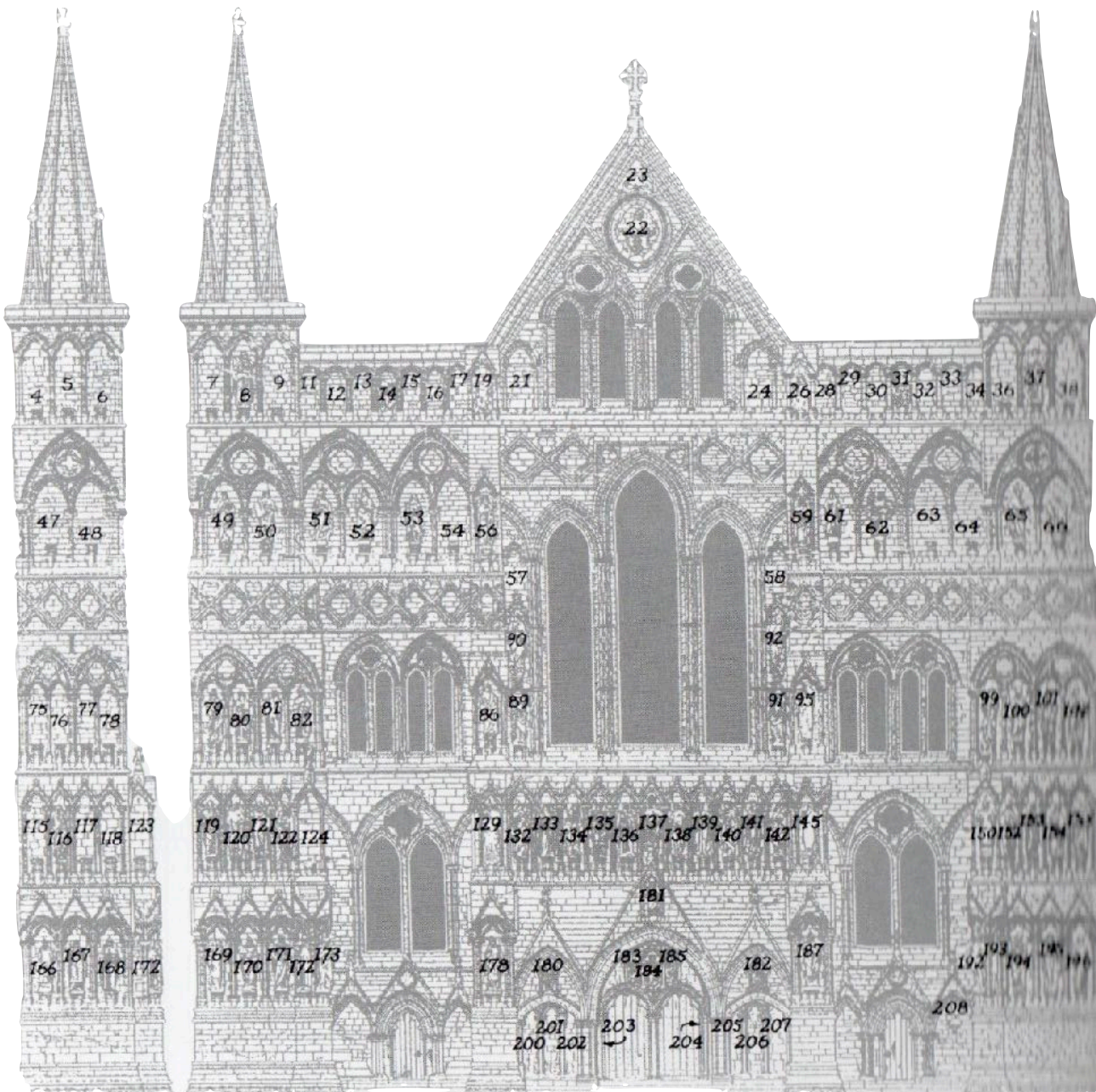
The 19th and 20th centuries have Christ in Majesty at 22, King David at 49, Moses at 50 followed by Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel at 51 - 53. Abraham and Noah occupy 56 and 59 with Job, Daniel and Samuel at 61, 62 and 65. King Solomon is at 66 followed by a run of saints from St Jude at 79 to St. Etheldreda at 167.

The remaining characters are Henry VI at 168, Bishop Poore at 170, Henry III at 171, St. Edmund of Canterbury 172, Bishop Odo of Ramsbury* 173, Bishop Ken** 177, St.Osmund 178, Virgin Mary in 182 and 184, Bishop Brithwold*** 187, St. Alban 192, St. Alphege 194, St. Edmund the Martyr 195 and at 196 St. Thomas of Canterbury.

Many art-historians dislike the West Front design although most agree that lovely Wells Cathedral contributed most to the concept, along with Malmesbury Abbey and the cathedrals of Northern France. There are 79 figures in all with 63 of them being installed during the Victorian period. The logic of the statuary such as it is would appear to be hierarchical: Christ at the top with Angels beneath, then Old Testament Patriarchs and Prophets followed by Apostles then Doctors, Virgins and Martyrs. Finally, English Church worthies, often with a local connection.

Some statues can be recognised by their attributes, Job (right) is helpfully labelled.





*Bishop Odo (or Oda) of Ramsbury died in 958 as Archbishop of Canterbury.

** Thomas Ken (1637 - 1711) was Bishop of Bath and Wells and wrote some memorable hymns. He finished up at Longleat and influenced Thomas Thynne to found a grammar school at Warminster; they still have a Ken house. Bishop Ken's statue was commissioned in 1931 by St Clair Donaldson as a memorial to his son.

*** Bishop Brithwold (or St. Brithwald) was a monk at Glastonbury before being chosen as Bishop in 995. He died in 1045.

LYDIARD TREGOZE

Names don't get much better than this Wiltshire village situated on the western approaches to Swindon. Robert Traigoz owned land here in 1242. St Mary's lies at the rear of Palladian Lydiard House the ancestral home of the St. John family (sin-jun?) and were thus patrons of the church. Originally from St. Jean (Rouen) they came over with the conqueror and received land in Glamorgan. Marriage to Margaret Beauchamp brought them into the Tudor ambit and gave them property in Bedfordshire and Wiltshire.



The church looks fairly unremarkable but on entering it is a different matter, and quite unusual. Unique enough to have just enjoyed a £1.1 million restoration. Although its origins are 13th century and you can still see the remnants of wall painting (page 4), it is in the Jacobean period that it begins to flourish. In Simon Jenkins' words: *Here lies a treasure trove of Carolean art, the inspiration of one man Sir John St. John Bart (1586-1648), Stuart courtier and obsessional family genealogist.*



To the south of the chancel is a Tuscan colonnade behind which is more or less a family chapel with a painted ceiling. The pièce de résistance is the family tree covered cabinet on the left. This opens to reveal an amazing polyptych (page 6), and yet still more genealogy. There is a monument to his grandparents (below left) and another to his sister (below right) and her egregious husband, the highly unpopular tax farmer, **Sir Giles Mompesson**. John St. John's





own tomb is something else (below left). His effigy is flanked by his two wives and eight of his thirteen children. Anne, his first wife, holds her last baby - *after which she died of exhaustion*. Finally, there is Sir John's son Edward, now known as the Golden Cavalier (below right). *The ensemble is theatrical and reverential, a shrine to a favoured son.*



Bibliography:

England's Thousand Best Churches by Simon Jenkins (Penguin Books 2000)

John Betjeman's Guide to English Parish Churches updated by Nigel Kerr (Harper Collins 1993)

St Mary's Church website: stmaryslydiatregoze.org.uk/heritage/1000-years-of-history

Wiltshire Place-Names by Martyn Whittock (Countryside Books 1997)

Route for those interested in visiting is via Amesbury, Manningford Bohune, Woodborough, Avebury and across the M4. Journey time 1hour 16 minutes.