



*Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards*  
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## THE PARVIS ROOM

This is the name the Cathedral uses for the room over the North Porch which is used to store the Clerk of Works' archives. Parvis is an interesting word whose origins are Latin and then old French meaning paradisus (paradise). Strictly, this refers to an enclosed court in front of a church as in St. Peters, Rome. So in terms of our North Porch it would refer to the ground floor and not the room above. Our misuse of the word in this context is fairly widespread in parish churches where such a room was often used for a library and teaching.

## HUBERT WALTER (1160 - 1205)

Hubert was Bishop of Salisbury between 1189 and 1194, formerly Dean of York he became Archbishop of Canterbury (and the first Primate of all England) at which point Herbert Poore was transferred from Canterbury (where he was Archdeacon) to Salisbury. As well as being Archbishop, Hubert was also Chief Justicar (similar to Prime Minister) and Lord Chancellor (outranks Justicar). Very much an outstanding administrator rather than a churchman. His crozier from coffin shown right.



Walter accompanied Richard on the Third Crusade where he negotiated with Saladin and was key to raising the ransom when Richard was captured. He also found Richard being held at Ochsensfurt rather than the romantic story of the minstrel Blondel. As justicar he set up a system of four knights in each Hundred to administer justice, in effect the precursor of our JPs. It is believed he started the system of archiving copies of charters, letters, patents and *feet of fines* (archival copy of a lawsuit) in the Chancery. Walter served John as diplomat.

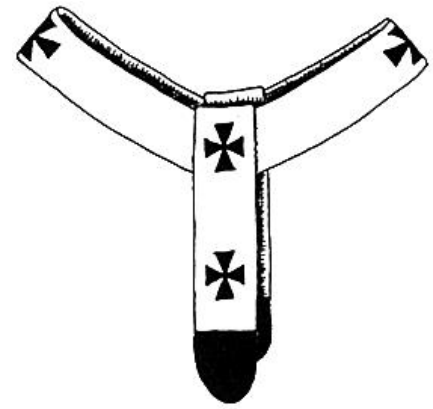
Walter was raised at West Derham in Norfolk where he instituted a Premonstratensian monastery. This was an order of Canons Regular founded by Norbert of Xanten at Prémontré near Laon in 1120. They became known as the White Canons. Xanten (on the Rhine south of Arnhem) is of course one of Salisbury's Twinning towns. Elias of Derham was known to the Walters and he was eventually poached from his brother by Hubert who was not particularly educated. Elias as Steward to Walter ran the diocese until Stephen Langton was appointed at which point he became Stephen's Steward.

## VESTMENT

Archbishop Walter would have worn a **Pallium**.

The pallium (derived from the Roman pallium or palla, a woollen cloak) is an ecclesiastical *vestmentin* in the Roman Catholic Church, originally peculiar to the Pope, but for

many centuries bestowed by the Holy See upon metropolitans and primates as a symbol of their conferred jurisdictional authorities. Pope Innocent III on the back of the Magna Carta tent is pictured wearing one. It usually takes the form of a Y-shaped band bearing black crosses (right *courtesy of Creative Commons*). One of the theories as to its origin is that it has descended from the Jewish High Priests' *Ephod*, the tabard that carried the *Hoshen* (breastplate depicting the twelve tribes of Israel), see right.

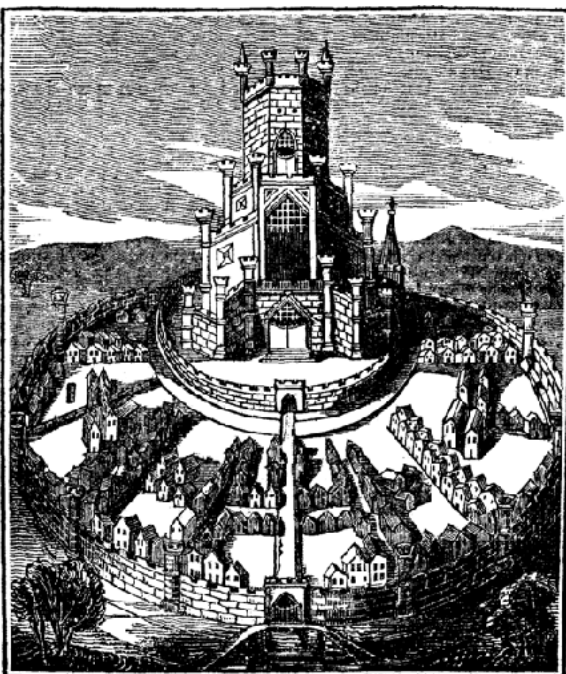


## THE ROTTEN BOROUGH

Old Sarum is an abandoned Saxon town that was the centrepiece to a major British scandal that rocked the corrupt 19th century political establishment. The fields and ancient ruins of Old Sarum, just north of Salisbury, were identified as Britain's worst political Rotten Borough and the reforms from the controversy still govern Britain today.

So What Was Wrong with Old Sarum, Salisbury? The Rotten (Pocket or Nomination) Borough controversy (an 18<sup>th</sup> century term) arose as the deserted village of Old Sarum was classified as a voting constituency and had a Member of Parliament (MP) in the House of Commons. This MP represented three houses comprising seven voters! While at the same time the new industrial cities were grossly underrepresented in parliament, Manchester had a population of 400,000 and no MP. Old Sarum was deemed to be the worst of the Rotten Boroughs and the Reform Act in 1832 readdressed the voter imbalance. This act was not passed as easily as would have been expected as many of the MPs were upper class land owners who refused to relinquish their powers.

Old Sarum was established as it was situated at the junction of two important Roman roads and, in the Saxon era, the town could be easily defended from Viking raids. Old Sarum prospered until the 13th century, at which point it had a large fortified castle and of course cathedral. This era saw the foundations of parliament and it was appropriate for the thriving town to have two elected political seats.



The fortunes of Old Sarum (left, a fanciful woodblock print in Merryweather's 1761 broadsheet *courtesy of Creative Commons*) dramatically altered when Bishop Richard Poore decided to relocate the entire city downhill. By the 14th century the castle was abandoned and by 19th century no one even lived in the constituency. The industrialisation of England brought massive changes to the country but Old Sarum still had 2 parliamentary seats. The constituency of Old Sarum was dissolved during the Reform Act, which was passed in 1832. During the preceding build up and to gain public acceptance the constituency was often highlighted as a blatant

misuse of power open for corruption and bribery.

The act required 3 attempts to become law as there was significant pressure against the legislation from the House of Lords. The lords were significant landowners and felt this act would transfer power the lands to the rapidly growing cities. This is how the Old Sarum rotten borough continued to be a political constituency for so long.

Surprisingly the Old Sarum rotten borough produced some of England's finest leaders, namely William Pitt 'The Elder' (1708 –1778) and his son William Pitt 'The Younger' (1759 - 1806). the elder William led Britain to super-power dominance with a definitive victory over France and concluded the Seven Year war. Wellesley and Castlereagh also represented rotten boroughs and the Duke of Newcastle was said to have seven in his pocket.

## THE DELUGE

A letter was received from the Town Clerk in February 1883:

*Dear Sirs*

*At a meeting of the Sanitary Authority held to day a report was received from the City Surveyor relative to the recent flood which occurred in Fisherton, and a memorial [memo] from certain of the inhabitants as to the Authority taking measures to prevent a recurrence of a similar disaster, was also read.*

*I am therefore directed by the Authority to ask the immediate attention of the Dean and Chapter to the state of the stream, both above and below the Town Mill [Bishop's Mill], and to point out the desirability of their at once taking steps to properly cleanse the same as thereby, in the opinion of the Authority, it will materially tend to lessen the effects, if not wholly prevent the happening of a like event.*

*Your early reply will oblige*

*Yours faithfully*

*W.C. Powning [Yes, really his initials]*

May 1883: The Town Clerk makes clear his feelings that the flood was made worse by the Dean and Chapter not taking their responsibilities seriously. He points out that the Authority could draw the flood or waste hatches at the Mill Head and by the Baths as recommended in Mr. [Cyrus] Coombes report. The Dean and Chapter agree to inform the tenant at the Town Mill that he must *draw the flood or waste hatches* [open the sluices] *whenever the water is 4" above the water mark at the Mill and not close them again until the water level has fallen to the level of the water mark.* The same was to apply to the Back River with a new mark to be inscribed on the north side of Fisherton Bridge. Mr Coombes arranges the new mark, 1' 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" below the level of the highest flood at that point, in the July.

Although the Dean and Chapter's first reaction was to ask for legal opinion as to the extent of their liability and they reply that *It cannot be expected that the Dean and Chapter be at the expense of cleaning the bed of the river from all the refuse which is thrown into it by the inhabitants of Castle Street.* They do suggest that if a subscription was to be organised, they would definitely contribute.

As a footnote, in the June there is an inquest into a child drowning when falling into the Town Mill Stream at the Mill Head. The jury recommends erecting a fence and the Dean and Chapter agree to erect one.