

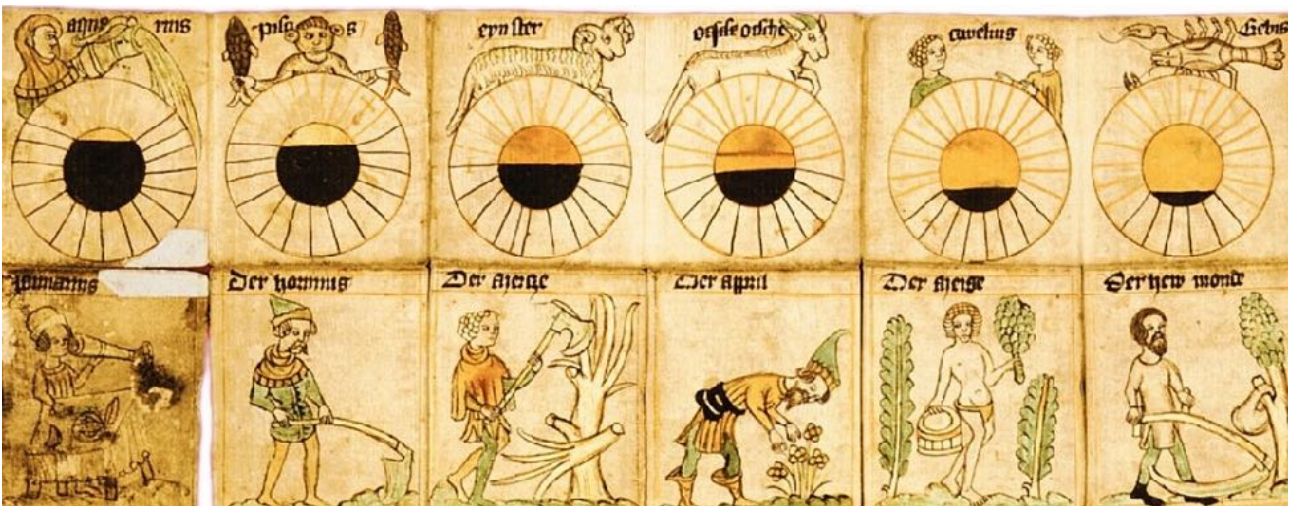
Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1733 onwards and divers historical prospecting.

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TIME ON OUR HANDS

Stephen Dawes delves a little more into time: The year used to start on the first “Quarter Day” of the year which is Lady Day on 25 March. (The other Quarter Days which are still used in legal circles are Midsummers day = 24 June [not the Solstice on 21 June], Michaelmas Day = 29 September, and Christmas day = 25 December.) Lady Day is also known as the “Feast of the Annunciation” and commemorates the visit by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she would be the mother of Jesus. It is obviously an important event especially for Salisbury Cathedral in its original guise as the Cathedral Church of the



Blessed Virgin Mary.

I was told that one aspect of the dedication of the cathedral to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the building is aligned so that the setting sun on Lady Day should shine through the West Window and light up all the nave roof space – something I should like to prove at some point in the future. The bail window at the very apex of the South Transept is also thought to shine through onto the centre of the floor at the Crossing at Midday on the Spring Equinox.

The UK formalised the calendar to start the year on 1 January in 1752 instead of Lady Day at the same time as the Gregorian Calendar was adopted and the 11 days were skipped. However, at the time the financial year would still run from Lady Day. The change of calendar almost caused riots in the following year because people were being asked to pay their annual rents when the year was suddenly 11 days shorter and they had less time to earn the money to pay it. The fix was to move the date when the rent was to be paid back by 11 days from 25 March to 6 April. This explains why HMRC starts each Tax Year on 6 April even now.

Today we take accurate and Universal Time for granted. Most of us have access to a clock which is accurate to within 10nS (1/100,000,000ths of a Second). These clocks are orbiting the Earth in a constellation of two dozen satellites in Geostationary orbits and provide the signals which

are used by GPS devices such as the SatNav in your car. Indeed GPS works by measuring the very slight difference in time taken for signals to travel from the different satellites to your car, the clocks need to be highly accurate to be able to know your location to within a few metres. (There is half a microsecond difference between the two ends of the nave.)

Thus, even with our most sophisticated tools and understanding, the concept of time and date are only an artifice of modern society that it is just a compromise for our practical convenience. For example the sun sets more than a quarter of a second later at the West end of the cathedral than at the East end. In practice the length of a year will never be accurately determined due to the processional wobble of the Earth as it orbits the Sun, the effects of the Perihelion (when it is closest to the Sun in January) and Aphelion and the gradual slowing down of the spin of the Earth due to gravitational drag from the Moon (1.7mS in the past century). The best estimate for now is that the length of a year is 365.2422 days but it will gradually have fewer days over time as each of the days gets very slightly longer.

Finally, we have an ancient guide to the length of a year in Salisbury which was mentioned by Daniel Defoe when he visited in 1720:

"As many days as in one year there be,
So many windows in this church we see;
As many marble pillars here appear
As there are hours throughout the fleeting year;
As many gates as moons one year does view—
Strange tale to tell! yet not more strange than true."

So when you next get the chance to visit the cathedral, try counting the windows and how many days there are in a year.

THE BISHOP'S PALACE

In Close Rolls for 1221 two grants were made by Henry III to Bishop Poore of timber for building the Palace, so it was evidently built at the same time as the Cathedral and probably completed by the time of Bishop Poore's translation to Durham in 1229. Below, photo courtesy of *Gaius Cornelius* creative Commons.

In 1450 Bishop Aiscough, Henry VI's secretary and confessor, who was unpopular locally as a non-resident bishop and associated with the spirit of unrest against Henry VI's government, was dragged from the altar at Eddington Priory and murdered by a group of discontented Salisbury



citizens. His successor, Bishop Richard Beauchamp, 1450-1481, took care to be both resident and active. He built the Great Hall which, at 26m/87ft by 11m/37ft is one of the largest built in the 15th century. The North Porch and East Tower were built to make an imposing entrance. The arms of Henry VIII above the door were added later by Bishop Salcot (or Capon) 1539-1557.

The Great Hall is believed to have been used for the trial of Henry Stafford, Duke

of Buckingham. He, along with the Bishop of the time, his brother-in-law Bishop Woodville and John, later Lord, Cheney, was a supporter of the Lancastrian Henry Tudor against the Yorkist Richard III. He was beheaded in the courtyard of the Blue Boar Inn, which was on the south side of Salisbury's Market Square after the failure of the 1483 rebellion, the others having fled to Brittany. 120 year later, James I often visited the Palace for hunting in Clarendon Park and the New Forest. He also used the Hall as Chamber of State and the frequency of his visits became a burden on the finances of both City and Bishop.

The next major change occurred in the Commonwealth period 1649-1660 when bishops were abolished and deprived of their livings. The palace was demolished except for a small part which was let out as apartments. It was eventually sold and subsequently passed through several hands, meanwhile falling into disrepair and being plundered for its timber. At one time it was owned by a Mr van Ling, a Dutch sailor who converted what was left of it, the Great Hall having almost completely disappeared, into an inn for traders in Salisbury Market.

The first bishop after the Restoration in 1660 of Charles II was Humphrey Henchman, 1660-1663 and he concerned himself mainly with making a new chapel. The reconstruction of the rest fell to Bishop Seth Ward, 1667-1689, who employed Sir Christopher Wren to conduct a survey of the Cathedral and to advise on plans for the Palace. A compact hall was constructed from the remains of Beauchamp's Great Hall and a new front entrance was inserted in the centre of the new building line, embellished with the Royal Arms and the date 1674. Bishop Ward also founded the Matrons College at the High Street gate of the close for widows of 12 clergy from the Dioceses of Salisbury and Exeter.

The most controversial changes took place under Bishop Shute Barrington, 1782-1791 who employed James Wyatt to 'restore' the Cathedral. At the Palace he employed Sir Robert Taylor, who altered almost everything. In particular he erected a new porch at the north front, converting what had been the dining room into the entrance hall. The porch is in the style known as Romantic Gothick and clashes in style and size with the rest of the medieval building. The exterior was restored with a grant from English Heritage in 1994. The reason for the Garter badge displayed over the door is that in Bishop Beauchamp's time, 1450-1481, Windsor was in the diocese of Salisbury and when Edward IV decided in 1471 to build a new St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle (Below, 1848 picture of Castle lower bailey *courtesy of Royal Collection Trust Public Domain*) he appointed Beauchamp to organise it. In 1475 he appointed Beauchamp Chancellor of the Order of the Garter and enacted that this office should pass to his successors. In fact only his immediate successor, Woodville, enjoyed this privilege until Seth Ward succeeded in getting it restored in 1671. Thereafter the bishops of Salisbury continued to hold the office until 1837 and were therefor entitled to include the Garter in their coat of arms. From



1937 the office has been held by a layman, usually, though not always, a companion of the Order.

CONFUSED.COM

The various titles in the Anglican Church can cause confusion to the uninitiated so here is a little clarification:

Since Henry VIII the monarch has been titular head of the Church. Queen Elizabeth I agreed to become *Supreme Governor in all spiritual or*

ecclesiastical things. In the possibly as a reaction to the Movement, a part of the form the Free Church of North and South diocese. was William Troughton (not that plays Tom Archer). Arms *Creative Commons*.

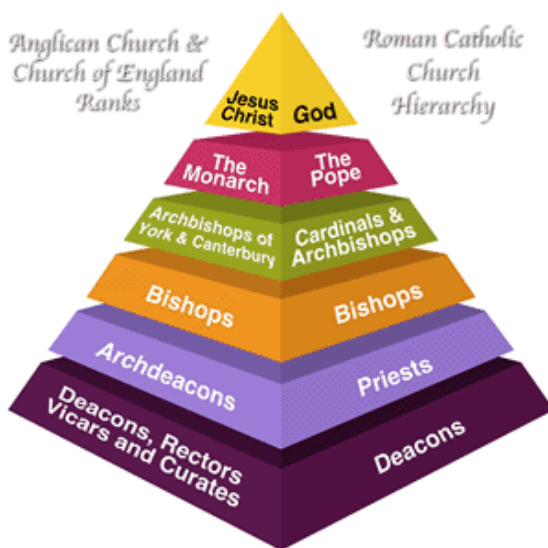


middle of the 19th century, High Church Oxford Anglican Communion split to England. They are split into a Their first northern bishop to be confused with the actor *courtesy of lobsterthermidor*

As you know, England has two Archbishop of York, Stephen *Reverend and Right Honorable*. The down to the River Trent, was founded **Bishop** of the York diocese and York. He is also **Primate** of England whereas Canterbury is Primate of All England. The previous holder was the Ugandan born John Sentamu who famously removed and cut up his 'dog-collar' whilst Robert Mugabe remained in power. Ironically one of Archbishop John's christian names is *Mugabe*. He also referred to the Quaker capitalists George Cadbury, Joseph Rowntree and Joseph Storrs Fry as the 'Chocolate Trinity'. Whilst criticising the "Mets" stop and search powers he mentioned that he was the only bishop who had been stopped in this way (8 times).

archbishops. The new Cottrell, is referred to as *The Most* Archbishopric, which extends in 735AD. The Archbishop is also **Metropolitan** Bishop of the Province of

Bishops are assisted by Area or **Suffragan** bishops. Salisbury diocese has two: Ramsbury and Sherborne. The Bishop is also assisted by **Archdeacons** referred to as *The Venerable* who principally represent the bishop to the diocese and vice versa. We have always had Archdeacons responsible for counties ie Dorset, Wiltshire (and in the past Berkshire) plus Sarum. Today there is also Sherborne. Dorset at Stourpaine whilst based in Church House. *courtesy of Adducation.info*.



and Sherborne are based Wiltshire and Sarum are Rank pyramid below,

Peculiar, one of my means exempt from the diocese's bishop. So, St. Georges are peculiar. In cathedral peculiars would Salisbury was unusual in chapter minutes are matters where many under the **Dean & Bishop**. Incidentally alternative to Dean especially in newer diocese. **Deacons** were originally responsible for collecting and distributing alms and a **Deaconess** goes back to the early church, principally looking after sick and poor women.

favourite churchy words, jurisdiction of the Royal Chapels such as the past, monastic and also have been recognised. having 40 peculiars. Our dominated by property parish churches came Chapter rather than the **Provost** can be an

More difficulties come in the parish, so **Rector** is an incumbent whose tithes were his entitlement and was therefore self-supporting. A **Vicar** on the other hand has had the tithes removed and the name is equivalent to 'vice' as in deputy. **Parson** nowadays is a synonym for a

clergyman but originally it meant rector. **Pastor** is another synonym but more associated with non-episcopal churches. **Priest** came from the Greek word *Presbyter* and deputised for the Bishop. Later, in Catholicism, priest became the representative of God to the people (rather than the reverse). Finally, a **Minister** (servant) is a conductor of a service who may be a priest).

TOMB TALK - John Blythe

Gordon Verity brought to my attention the defaced (literally) tomb of **Bishop John Blythe** in the North Transept. John Blythe was born in Norton Lees in Derbyshire about 1460. John got his Bachelors degree at Cambridge in 1476/77. Between 1479 and 1480 he gained a doctorate. He already had a number of Prebendary posts by then including Archdeacon of Stow in 1477, and Archdeacon of Huntingdon 1478. In 1484 he gained a prebendary at Masham, and in 1485 he became Archdeacon of Richmond, so he was rising rapidly in the academic and legal world.

On the 24th April, 1488, he became Warden of Kings College. A position he kept for 10 years. Between the years 1493 and 1495 he was chancellor of the university of Cambridge, and in that capacity he delivered an oration before Henry VII, his mother, the Countess of Pembroke, and Prince Arthur, at Cambridge . It is said that his oration so impressed Henry VII that he appointed John as his personal chaplain. 1493 was a busy year for John as he not only became chancellor of Cambridge and Chaplain to Henry, Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, he was also put up for the position of Bishop of Salisbury. On the 18th of November he was granted payment of £1,021 7s 11d. for the custody of the *temporalities* of Salisbury, and on February 23rd 1494 he was consecrated as Bishop at Lambeth .

John Blythe was part of a new order in Church and Government. He came from a family with very little status, wealth or connections. The War of the Roses had decimated the Aristocracy, in that out of 64 peers, there remained only 38. Possibly from fears of the aristocracy rising up against him to challenge his tenuous claim to the throne, Henry Tudor chose to put in knights and gentlemen in positions previously held by aristocrats. John however was not born a gentleman. Nor does he seem to have any great connections. The Blythe family however had a long history of being in service to the Crown, and to the House of Lancaster. The Tudor rose is an emblem that can be seen on the tomb canopy. It is said however that this tomb was originally to be Bishop Beauchamp's. However other sources only suggest the tomb's position not the actual edifice was originally for Beauchamp.



In 1499 John Blythe died and was buried in Salisbury Cathedral in the ambulatory of the Lady Chapel, behind the high altar with a great canopied monument with his effigy. The monument was later moved to the wall of the great transept where it still stands. Photo showing removed face above *courtesy of Church Monuments Gazeteer*. During Blyth's episcopate in 1496, the islands of Jersey and Guernsey were taken from the see of Coutances, and added to that of Salisbury, until in 1499 they were finally included in the bishopric of Winchester. **Does anyone know what happened to the face?** Protestant extremists perhaps?