



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards and divers historical prospecting.

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LOCKDOWN

As we are all stuck at home I thought we might deviate and look at what we are currently reading which might give one another ideas. I am afraid that I am one of those that reads several books at once which now being confined to the house has probably got a bit out of hand (* are re-reads):

Non-fiction

Jerusalem, The Biography *Simon Sebag Montefiore* - Phoenix 2012

Not a book to read in one go but very readable and a balanced view of religious history, full of fascinating stories.

Thomas Cromwell *Tracy Borman* - Hodder & Stoughton 2014

Very detailed and based on an incredible amount of research. Not as nail-gripping as *Wolf Hall* but it does bring to light one of History's great men, and one who actually managed to change his country. Right, by Hans Holbein (1497 - 1533), *courtesy of the Frick Collection, New York.*

Ingenious Pursuits *Lisa Jardine* - Little Brown & Co. 1999

Lisa was a great history communicator (Jacob Bronowski's daughter) and her books are full of new insights. In this case into the individuals behind the Scientific Revolution.

Captain of the 95th (Rifles) *Jonathan Leach* - Longman 2019

A soldier's diary kept during the Napoleonic wars. A fascinating worms-eye view.

Fiction

A Monstrous Regiment *Terry Pratchett* - Corgi 2004*

Our late and much lamented local author. His books are great fun and a real parody of modern life. Here many of the soldiers turn out to be women in disguise.

The Confessions of Brother Haluin *Ellis Peters* - Futura 1988*

The Brother Cadfael novels are a real joy and conjure up the 12th century perfectly.

Emperor: The Death of Kings *Conn Iggulden* - Harper 2011

Part of a 5-book set, this is a fictionalised but factually based account of the life of Julius Caesar (as if he were being played by Errol Flynn).

Rather Be The Devil *Ian Rankin* - Orion 2016*

The author that put the seamy underside of Edinburgh on the map. One of the great Rebus novels and full of the usual twists in the plot.

As you can see, I have been reading in rather a narrow spectrum so **please** let me know your own recommendations.



EASTER

In the last edition I explored the Church's most important festival, however one item I missed was Good Friday. Why would we call such a sad occasion Good? It was difficult to find a definitive answer but the most likely is that in days gone by *Good* was equated with *Holy*.

EPITAPHS

In James Harris' 1825 book of Salisbury Cathedral epitaphs I came across these passages.

A humorous poem on Old Sarum by Dr Pope:

*Therein was a castle for men of arms,
And a cloister for men of the gown;
There were friars and monks, liars and punks,
Tho' not any whose names are come down.
The soldiers and churchmen did not long agree,
For the surly men with the hilt on,
Made fun at the gate, with the priests that came late,
From shriving the nuns of Wilton.*



A contemporary poet wrote in Latin

*Water's there scarce, but chalk in plenty lies,
And those sweet notes which Philomel denies,
The harsher music of the wind supplies.*

The original meaning of *Punk* was a young troublemaker and amazingly came from the Algonquin.

Philomela is the Latin for nightingale.

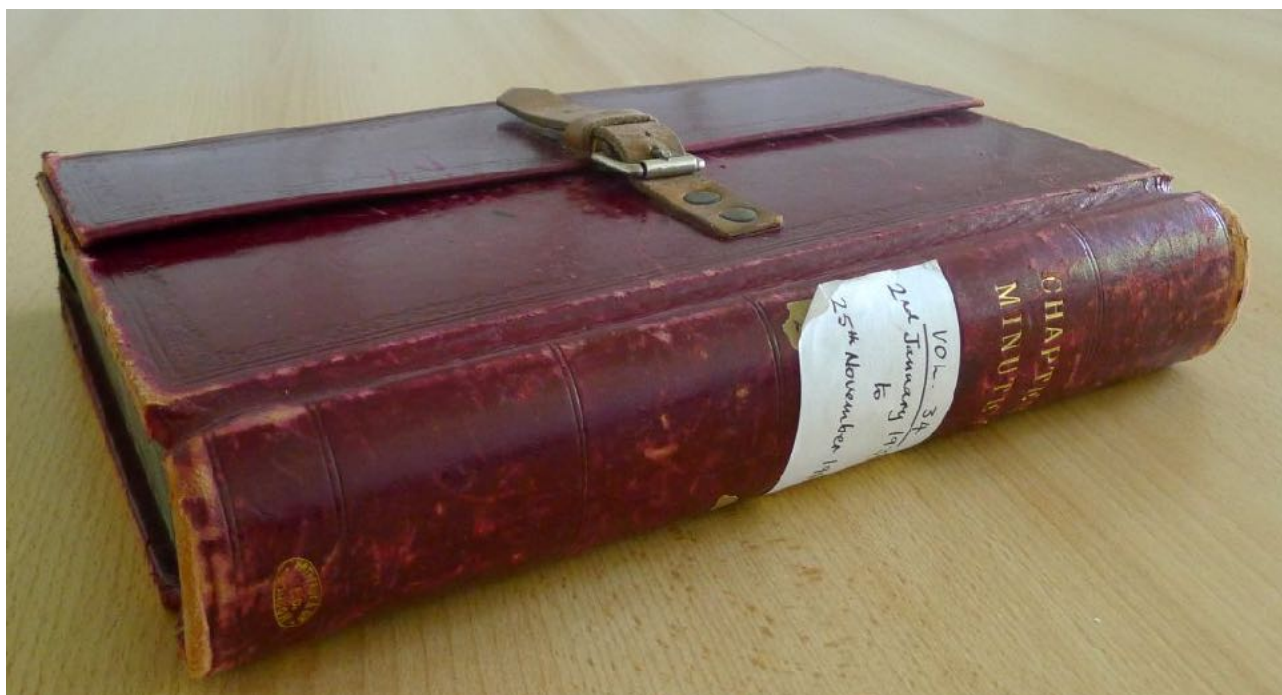
On the left, opposite the door of the choir [note spelling], is the Morning Chapel in which is a monument of Purbeck marble, with the effigies of a Bishop incumbent in pontificalibus [attire or vestments of ones

office], supposed to be that of Bishop Poore, the founder of the Church. It is said by some ancient writers, that he was buried elsewhere; be that as it may, the following was his epitaph before the monument was removed from its former situation, which was in St. Mary's Chapel, the present chancel, and the following was his epitaph:

Pray for the soul of Richard Poore, formerly Bishop of Sarum, who began building this Church in a place anciently called Merrifield, in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and on the feast of St. Vital the Martyr, 3 call. May 1219, and in the reign of Richard 1st. This Church was 40 years in building, and was finished 8 call. April, 1258 and 42 Henry III.

CAPITULA CONCORDANCE

This is the work I have been compiling from the Chapter minutes which to date has reached 190 pages and covers the years 1701 to 1894. I have divided it into sections, one of which covers THE LAW.



The Bishop, as you know, had his own Court which exercised jurisdiction over Church property and offences against clergy. In July 1840 A patent granted of the office of Vicar General and Principal Official of the Consistory Court of the Lord Bishop of Sarum to James Robert Hope B.C.L. Fellow of Merton College Oxford Barrister at law for the term of his life.

In October 1843 Were exhibited Letters Patent of the office of Registrar of the Decanal Consistory Court of Sarum granted by the Very Reverend Hugh Nicolas Pearson Clerk D.D. Dean of Sarum for the life of Fitzherbert Macdonald Gentleman. Similarly office of Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Sarum granted by the Reverend Francis Lear Clerk Archdeacon to and for the life of the said Fitzherbert Macdonald. In addition in March 1848 he was also inducted into the Office of Registrar of the Bishoprick of Sarum. In October 1786 a case was made to unite two contiguous parishes in Marlborough. A detailed legal opinion and ruling was requested from a Dr Wynne.

Macdonald was a Notary Publick, JP and usually put *Actuary* after his name. He was one of the Chapter Clerks and with one of his colleagues had a solicitors practice in the Close and in

December 1864 Lord Malmesbury refers to them as *the Solicitors to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church*.

As a large part of the Chapter proceedings had to do with property leases and repairs it was essential to have legal professionals to word letters, instructions and writs. In serious cases QCs opinion would be sort. January 1848: *Chapter Clerk was directed to prepare a case for the opinion of Counsel as to the elligibility of Matrons to the College of Seth Ward with reference to the severance of the county of Berks from the diocese of Sarum and the addition thereto of the county of Dorset*. January 1849: *Equity barrister to give opinion of liability after the failure of Brodies Bank and the compensation money paid in by the Bishopstoke Railway Company*.

April 1846: The Reverend William Macdonald Clerk M.A. The Communar and Official of the *Peculiar and Exempt jurisdiction*. Communar reported that he had held a Court Leet (descendent of Hundred and manorial Courts) for the Manor of Lockerley - it had encroached on the common green. March 1858: Application was made to this Chapter on behalf of Fitzherbert Macdonald Esq. for a license to assign the lease of the messuages (a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use) and premises in the Bishop's Walk to the Crown to be used as Her Majesty's Court of Probate for this district.

Enfranchisement (obtaining of Landlord's title) of the manor of Kenton postponed. February 1874: The Bishop requires a Proctor to attend the Convocation in St. Pauls. The D&C ask the opinion of Dr Deane Q.C., Chancellor of the Diocese of Sarum, *as to whether the non-residential prebendaries of this Cathedral had acquired a right to vote in the selection of such Proctor*. Q.C. replies that Prebendaries have the right to vote for 300 years but not non-residential canons. They have lost the right through non-use. It could be pursued but only as litigation. January 1880: Counsel's Opinion sought in light of recent statutes whether or not Preshute House could be let to a master of Marlborough College.

TOMB TALK - Thomas Bennet



In the North Quire Aisle lies the tomb of Thomas Bennet; the inscription states that he died in 1554. He was Precentor and Chancellor from 1542 to 1558, and he was Secretary to Cardinal Wolsey as well as acting as deputy to the

Bishop, Cardinal Campeggio (1525 to 1535). Also, he was (according to James Harris) supposed to have tried to fast for forty days *in imitation of Our Saviour, but of course died long before the time was expired*. Harris also states *he is represented as a skeleton, as is one Fox, who is reported to have been as great*

a fool as his neighbour. He lies in skeletal form recumbent on his shroud on a rolled and coarsely woven mat. I believe that originally, the panel behind was illustrated with scenes from his life.

This style of tomb was a *Memento Mori* designed to remind the viewer of the transience and vanity of mortal life. There are also effigies showing a rotting cadaver known as a *transi* and others which show the figure in both life and death - see the FitzAlan (14th Earl of Arundel) tomb below, *courtesy of Lampman GNU Creative Commons*. I don't know about you but as a guide wanting to entertain visitors I much prefer Harris' explanation.



APRIL SAINTS

If we weren't self-isolating we could probably still take the time off by observing the 17 saint's days in April. Perhaps the most important are St. George on the 23rd and St. Mark on the 25th but perhaps more interesting is the following. April 19th St. Elphege born in 954AD of a noble Saxon family. He became a monk, hermit and then Benedictine Abbot. At 30 he became Bishop of Winchester and 22 years later became Archbishop of Canterbury. He was captured by the Danes in 1011 and imprisoned awaiting ransom. However, he stated '*What reward can I hope for if I spend upon myself what belongs to the poor?*' The enraged Danes beat him cruelly until one mercifully finished him with an axe. He was buried in St. Pauls before being translated to Canterbury. A church dedicated to him stands upon the place of his martyrdom in Greenwich.

Ut sanus