



*Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards*  
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I have taken to using two abbreviations: EC for the Ecclesiastical Commission and D&C for the Dean and Chapter. FELIX SIT ANNUS NOVUS.

## PORTER/CONSTABLE/BEADLE

You will recall that in the last edition we looked at the job spec of the Close Porter. As the previous incumbent had died the Chapter agreed to purchase the lodge fittings:

A schedule of fixtures was required in September 1869 when the Porter's Lodge (48 The Close) was refurbished.

*It was agreed to purchase the following fixtures from the representative of the late Porter at the price of £25-17-6. Such fixtures to be forever hereafter the property of the Dean and Chapter.*

*Attics - 2 pin rails with 3 pins.*

*Small room over kitchen - 2 shelves and brackets. Elliptic grate as fixed. Shelves and brackets in closet.*

*Room next - 2 pin rails with 4 pins.*

*Drawing room - Register grate. Shelf in cupboard.*

*Room next - Oxford grate. Rail and 3 pins.*

*Front room next - Cupboard near window. Rail and 7 pins. Register grate.*

*Small room looking into court - Rail and 2 pins. Shelf and bracket.*

*Landing - 3 shelves in cupboard. Door to bottom part of cupboard. Scolloped shelves at sides of window.*

*Shelves in cupboard on quarter space.*

*Water closet - Small shelf.*

*Dining Room - Cupboard and 3 shelves. Oxford grate.*

*Cellar - Bins and shelves.*

*Front sitting room - Register grate. Double cupboard and shelves at side of fireplace.*

*Small sitting room - Register grate. Shelves in cupboard.*

*Hall - 4 bells complete. Rail and 12 pins. Shelf in coal closet.*

*Pantry - Shelves and bearers.*

*Lobby - Shelf. Shelf in cupboard.*

*Kitchen - Kitchener stove with plate rack and hot plate. Bell. Dresser with 2 drawers and shelves.*

*Lobby - 2 shelves. Pin rail.*

*Scullery - 2 copper boilers with grates, furnace doors and wood lids, set in brickwork. Shelf and brackets.*

Although further down in the hierarchy than the Choir School teacher, it was nevertheless a substantial property.

## THE THORN

The Reverend William Henry Pullen had a record of disagreements with the Dean in which he remained calm but provoked the Dean who became increasingly incandescent. In April 1870 things came to a crisis:

The minutes record a pamphlet published by Vicar Choral Henry William Pullen entitled *Medieval Mummery* (referring to the installation of a Prebendary) which *constituted an indecent act of brawling and that the pamphlet was scandalous and libellous and calculated and intended to cast odium on the Dean and Canons and to hold them up to the reproach and contempt of the subordinate members of the Cathedral and all other persons*. A suit is filed in the Spiritual Court and he is to be dismissed from his post of Superintendent of the Choristers. What is recorded next however is that the Reverend Henry William Pullen is appointed as Librarian at £30 per annum *determinable without previous notice at any time by order of the Chapter and the duties to be such as may from time be prescribed by the Dean and chapter*. N.B. £15.4.6 per annum of salary to be payable from the Choristers' Tilshead farm and £14.15.6 from capitular fund. The Chapter also appointed him to temporary post of Superintendent of Choristers at the rate of £25 per annum. It makes it look as if he had done nothing wrong legally but were they manoeuvring him into a position where he could be removed at will? However he resigned but was allowed to change his mind; so no animosity!

## LADIES

The female gender does not get much of a mention in the Chapter minutes (not even the BVM) but in March 1870 a brief note appears concerning the salaries of the **Closet Women**. They decide not to do anything as the Choir closets were to be discontinued. It makes it look as if they were at last 'coming out of the closet'!

## TROUBLE AT MILL

In July 1889 the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Thomas' wish to purchase the dwellinghouse garden and premises belonging to the Town Mill. Agreed to be sold at the lowest price acceptable to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners provided it is to be used for an Elementary School. The EC insist that St Thomas' should pay for the valuation.

In the August, Edward Waters, the valuer, suggests that the Town Mill is underused grinding corn and could be used for producing electricity. The value would be £600 (say £75,600 today). If the mill itself is to be rented out then a reduction of £25 (say £31,500 today) would be in order. If the property was bought minus the mill then the value would be only £250 plus the cost of re-erection of domestic offices and a boundary wall. This is now agreed by the EC.

## GRAMMAR

In June 1889 the Chapter received a letter from the Bishop requesting that he is allowed to purchase half an acre *in the eastern half of the garden immediately to the north of the Palace gardens, recently in the occupation of Mr H. Coake*. The Chapter agree a rent of £12 and stipulate that a wall be built on the north and west sides. They also agree to pierce the outer wall of the Close so as to provide an entrance but they wish to keep the stone. In all, with the building, this cost the Bishop £3,000 (say £378,200 today).

I expect you have guessed by now that the Bishop in question was John Wordsworth, nephew of the poet and the land was for a school of course, BWS - *Bishop Wordsworth's Church of England Grammar School for Boys*. The school has five houses: Poore, Osmund, Jewel, Martival and Ward. The school motto *Beritas in Caritate* is taken from the Bishop's epitaph and translates as *Truth through Caring*. The school's status changed in 2011 to an Academy.



In the Bishop's letter he refers to *the Estate Ecclesiastical Committee* but shortens the word a macron ( ¯ ) over the m. This is a *tittle* as used in Magna Carta. I don't know if this was normal in the Victorian period or if the Bishop just liked using archaic forms!

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## VISITATION

*Answer to questions propounded by him [the Bishop] at the Primary Visitation of the Cathedral held on Tuesday the Seventeenth day of April 1889.* These official visitations took place every few years and were also carried out at Parish level. We do not have the questions but they can be inferred by the answers given below. One of the Bishop's titles was The Visitor.

Question 1: The Dean and Precentor should not be one person and Canons should remain Prebendaries.

Question 2: Continuance of Wednesday non-choral service to be considered.

Register of communicants and those confirmed to be kept by the Vicar of the Close.

draft of services proposed for 5<sup>th</sup> November to commemorate benefactors to be referred to a committee.

Special service for children on Innocents day [Childermas 28<sup>th</sup> December] so one for inmates of hospitals on Maundy Thursday [Thursday before Easter] *appears hardly possible*.

*Undesirable* for a hymn to be sung *at the early celebration of Holy Communion*.

Difficulties *insuperable* of combining Temperance (26.6.89) service with other societies.  
*Pentecostal Chapter* did not want to change rota of preachers (10.6.89).

Question 3: Laymen now wear cassocks and take their place in the Nave during the Sermon.

Question 4: D&C pledge their co-operation in the *higher religious education of the clergy* proposed by the Synod.

Question 5: *Sub-Dean and Succentor* [Deputy Precentor] historical precedence over non-residentiary Canons but this does not extend to *sacred offices*.

Question 6: The Dean will convoke the *Great Chapter* at the wish of the Bishop but not at the wish of the Prebendaries.

Question 7: Masters of the Fabric are responsible for the number of keys of the Cloisters.  
The lay officers may use the Library.  
Great care taken over burials in the Cloisters.

Question 12: Inventory of Cathedral made according to the *Statute of Roger de Mortival*.

Question 15: Religious education of Choristers is down to the *Custos Puerorum* [a Canon who had supervision over the Choristers].

It is hoped that the Choristers' property will, in the future, be able to fund some exhibitions [scholarships].

Question 18: It is hoped to effect an exchange between the vicarages of Bradford-on-Avon and Cricklade Saint Sampson.

Question 19: *Issue of a preparation for Holy Communion by the Visitor* [Bishop] *will be most welcome*.  
During Lent special addresses on Holy Communion are given.  
Services for Guilds desirable and City incumbents asked to preach, but not as a matter of right.  
Dean and Residentiary Canons ready to preach in parishes where their property lies.  
Position of Vicars Choral secured by Act of Parliament.

#### ODDS AND ENDS

January 1872: *Application from the Standing Committee of the Salisbury Diocesan Synod for permission to perform such work as may be necessary to improve the acoustic properties of the Chapter House*. I wonder what this was and why it was needed?

October 1863: Scott writes *Re Drainage*:

*I have made a calculation of the cost of restoring and underpinning the foundations and plinths of the Chapter House and Muniment Room to be done in all respects like the other portions of the Cathedral and find that about but more than £280 [say £34,500 today] will be required.*