

Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards
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MICHAEL GOATER WRITES:

In the interests of pedantry, may I, with due deference, note that BWS's motto is 'Veritas in Caritate', and that it originates, I believe, not from Bishop John Wordsworth's epitaph but his father's. He was Christopher, Bishop of Lincoln, and a celebrated classical scholar, who, 'in caritate', would doubtless have offered a gentle reproof for 'beritas'. Also, Bishop John Wordsworth is William Wordsworth's great nephew. It was his father, Bishop Christopher, who was the poet's nephew, his father (also, confusingly, a Christopher) being William Wordsworth's younger brother. Incidentally, although the motto is, as you say, usually rendered 'Truth through caring', I think it was based on Ephesians 4.15, where in the Vulgate it translates '(Speaking) the truth in love'.

In a recent 'J+T' you noted a difference between our exemplum of Magna Carta and others in terms of verb mood. Ours, I think you said, is in the subjunctive, the others in the indicative. I don't know what, if anything, this signifies, except that there is a use of the subjunctive in Latin known as the 'jussive'. German retains it, but English has virtually lost it except in toasts and acclamations (such as 'May the king live for ever!'). It expresses a strong wish, tantamount to an order. I can imagine a medieval scribe heartily sick of the shenanigans between John and the barons calling down a jussive as a plague on both their houses (especially if their Latin was a bit hit-and-miss). As for the versions in the indicative, well, perhaps like a number of contemporary political documents, they express more a pious hope or 'aspiration'!

There is an extraordinary range (and depth) of knowledge lying largely untapped in our fellow guides so please feel free to comment on any item in J&T or even introduce a new topic - Ed.

THE CLERK

The personality behind all the entries in the Chapter Minutes (where he is referred to in the rubric as *me*) is the Chapter Clerk. In his role of amanuensis he is something of an anonymous character but in the role which is more akin to a barrister's clerk his confidence and control sometimes shine through.

In August 1741 the clerk was one Thomas Frome who was a Notary Publick as was John Cooper in December 1771; whilst in October 1835 it was another notary, one John Lush Alford, who institutes the practice of signing the minutes - his writing was also immaculate. In May 1859

the following is recorded which appears to be unprecedented: *Between the hours of 12.00 and Three at the house of the Chapter Clerk*. In July 1751 a memorandum is signed Tho Frome Chapter Clerk. Resignation of Joseph Elderton Chapter Clerk and appointment of Joseph Elderton and William Boucher (another notary) complete with letters patent, oath taking and a paragraph of Latin. In June 1740 the Clerk started to use indentations so as to provide a wedge shape of words in the minutes but this practice did not last. The first brackets appear in May 1837.

In the early 1700s there appears to have been a short-lived fashion for using double letters - chappell be ffitted. The words are also sometimes difficult to read, especially in the earliest books, but in May 1793 when a new clerk takes over, there is a distinct improvement. Then in July 1827 clerk, John Lush Alford, also starts to regularises the dates of meetings, eg the first Wednesday in every Residence. Unusually, in July 1786 there were two chapter meetings, from 9:00am to 12:00pm and from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. This was to finalise the deal with the City Council - see end of section on Land and Property. I am not sure what the quorum was for a Chapter meeting but on 9th October 1786 there were only three present (including John Ekins, Dean) and in January 1795 Not present a number sufficient to make a Chapter. Whereas in July 1846 in Chapter assembled and making a Chapter.

Each minute book has an index (sometimes at both front and back), useful when a particular passage or word is unreadable. Lower case letters were a comparatively recent development and upper case is often used for all nouns. Spelling can change (Munday) and punctuation is hardly ever used despite its practice dating back to the 17th century. Proper nouns vary wildly in spelling: Vicarage of Alvington otherwise Avelington otherwise West Allington with the chapelries thereto. Interestingly, Southampton is referred to as Southamptonshire, a status that apparently lasted until April 1959! The clerk also uses many stock phrases such as for potential canons: 'on which day appeared personally' and for finally approved canons: 'a place and a voice'. 'In the room of' simply meant replaced by. 'Said' is also used to the point of monotony. One lease covers the 'Wardrope'. Interestingly, the Quire is always written Choir. Quire in its original form referred just as much to the singers as it did to their location so our modern usage seems to be a deliberate attempt at archaism.

CRIME PASSIONEL

In May 1872 Layman Kenningham is suspended by the Precentor. Laymen were the adult choristers and notoriously badly paid. Despite a humble and contrite letter to the D&C his suspension is confirmed. What was his awful crime?

Gentlemen

I take this opportunity of addressing a few words to you and to say how deeply grieved and truly sorry I am to find myself occupying so unhappy a position as I do at the present moment. What I have suffered since I have been suspended only my Father in Heaven knows. Nevertheless it will have taught me such a lesson that come what may it will by God's Grace have led me more carefully to seek that path of life which bringeth such peace as passeth Man's understanding.

Should you of your clemency be pleased to restore me to my office which I have occupied for a period of sixteen years - having been elected on May 20th 1856 - I can most faithfully promise to break off all connection with the person to whom I have been engaged. For I have already written to say that under the circumstances however painful, the acquaintance must for ever cease.

I remain gentlemen

Your very obed. servant

I. Kenningham.

For this 'heinous crime' he was summarily dismissed from the church!

A ROOD AWAKENING



John Elliott and I, having just finished our Magna Carta stint, were accosted by a visitor asking the meaning of 'Rood Screen'. John explained how the pulpitum had originally carried a large cross but this gave way in

Victorian times to the Skidmore screen (above, courtesy of Cornell University Library) and then in the last century to a completely clear view. That was fine but she then wanted to know where the word 'Rood' came from and here we were both stumped. So on arriving home I delved into reference books and Google. The best answer was: *Old English rōd; related to Dutch roede and German Rute meaning Rod, and so also related to our old system of land measurement. This still does not explain why it should mean a cross and certainly not THE cross. So if you come across anything more convincing please let us know. Skidmore Screen shown above.*

HEAR HEAR

We all know about the wonderful acoustics in the Chapter House and how a Canon sitting on one side could easily hear another Canon directly opposite. However, in January 1872 there is an *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!*