



A Salisbury-Cathedral-centric view of History.

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100th EDITION

In Charles III's first regnal year: to all our readers, a big thank-you for making J&T possible; and don't forget that we are always happy to receive your contributions.

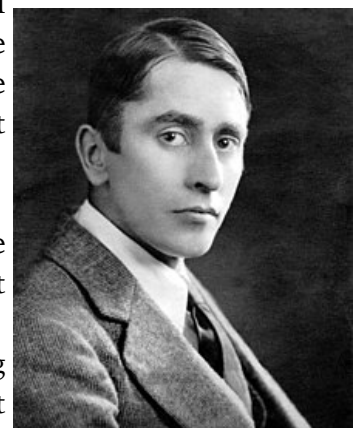


A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 40

MIKE DEEMING WRITES

To celebrate one hundred editions of Jot-and-Tittle, I thought I'd look at windows from one hundred years ago. In the Cathedral, the WW1 memorial windows date from 1922 as does the Jesse window, relocated in the same year from the great west window[1].

On this occasion, though, I thought I'd go a bit off-piste and write about one of the most extraordinary windows in the diocese, in St Mary's Church, Sturminster Newton ('Stur'), also installed in 1922. The window is by Harry Clarke (1889-1931), Ireland's outstanding stained glass artist, described as the 'Strangest Genius' in a recent



biography[2]. Born in 1889, he worked as a book illustrator and trained as a glass designer at his father's Dublin workshop. A strict Catholic, very few of his windows are in Protestant churches – indeed most of his work is in Ireland and the USA.

1922 was also the year of the establishment of the Irish Free State. Clarke's workshop had been hit by gunfire during the Irish War of Independence, but nobody was injured and the workshop continued to thrive. Clarke could have moved to An Túr Gloine ('the Tower of Glass'), a co-operative of Dublin Arts-and-Crafts glaziers, but chose to stay in the workshop which he had taken over on his father's death in 1921. His style was influenced by many contemporary movements, including Art Deco and the French Symbolist movements, but his use of colour is based on his experience of Chartres Cathedral. Even today many find his work utterly bizarre.

Sir Drummond Spencer-Smith (1876-1955), a Royal Artillery officer, became ADC to the Governor General of New Zealand, where he met Roma Hope of Timaru, a beautiful red-head; they married and returned to England to live in Stur. She became a nurse during WW1, but sadly died in November 1917, an early victim of the 'Spanish' flu epidemic, leaving her husband a widower and their eleven-month-old son motherless.

The three-lancet window in the Stur church is her memorial. It focuses on three ladies – St



Elizabeth of Hungary (the patron saint of nursing), the Virgin Mary, and St Barbara (patron saint of the Artillery). St Elizabeth (left) took bread to the hungry, against her husband's wishes; one day he stopped her going to feed the needy – but miraculously the small loaves she was carrying in her cloak turned to roses. The pink roses are shown in the window.

St Barbara (right) converted to Christianity against the will of her father; he imprisoned her in a tower, (shown in the window near her right shoulder), where she studied the Bible all day long. Eventually she was reported to the authorities, who condemned her to torture and death which her father agreed to carry out! Returning home, he was struck by lightning, which is why she

was chosen as the patron saint of artillerymen, the thunder and lightning reflecting the sound and the flash of the discharge of their guns. One story describes how on one occasion when she was being scourged, angels turned her scourges to feathers and that, too, is shown in this window; note also the artillery gun above the angel's head!

The images in the windows reference the Spencer-Smith family. Thus, St Elizabeth's red hair (very unusual in windows) reflect Roma's hair; St Barbara is a portrait of Clarke's own wife; and the Christ-child is a portrait of Roma's young son.

Clarke was only 41 years old when he died in 1931, but he leaves a unique legacy in design, colour and materials. We are very fortunate to have one of his extraordinary windows in our diocese.



[1] Discussed in peek numbers 21 and 38 in J&T 75 and 98 respectively

[2] 'Strangest Genius – the stained glass of Harry Clarke', by Lucy Costigan and Michael Cullen, The History Press Ireland 2010

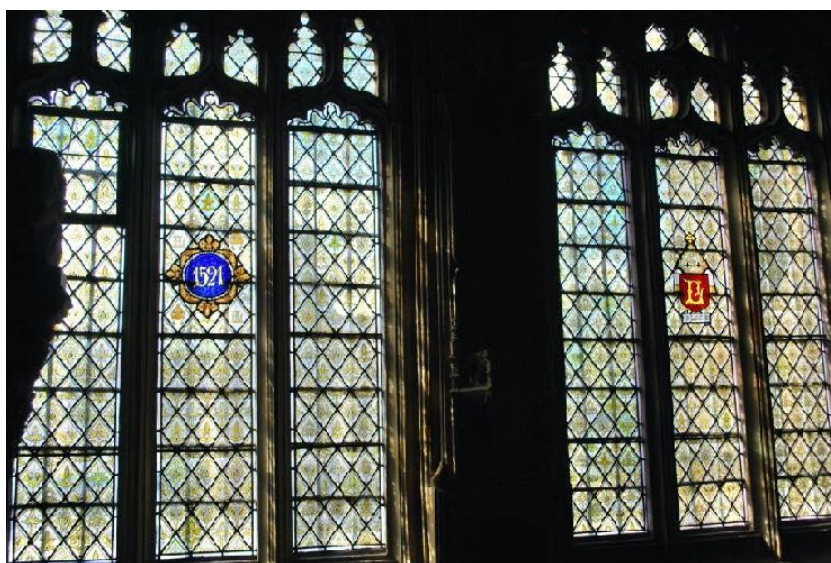
LINCOLN 2

I only gave a brief introduction to Lincoln Cathedral, so here is a bit more, starting with the impressive and highly unusual west front, a photo taken from the Castle entrance (page 1). The lovely Tudor windows (below) are in one of the chantries.

On page 4 you can see the ceiling of the cloisters which you note have wooden *webs* (infilling). The *ledger* that caught my eye belonged to Robert Dymoke, the Dymokes being hereditary King's Champion. Instituted by William I, he had to ride up Westminster Hall on his charger and challenge anyone who disputed the right of succession. Unfortunately George IV was the last king so protected, though the Dymoke family are still Kings' Champions. Their manor is at Scrivelsby, near Horncastle, in Lincolnshire.

THE ARMED MAN

We have seen before how close the Military and the Church are entwined. The lovely character (left), was photographed at the entrance to Lincoln Cathedral's Soldiers' Chapel. Checking with my copy of *Armies of the Napoleonic Era*, (Otto von Pivka, David & Charles 1979) I see that he is wearing the *facings* of the 10th





(North Lincolnshire) Regiment. The 10th was originally the Earl of Bath's regiment of Lincolnshire and nowadays it forms part of the Royal Anglian Regiment.



HOSPITAL 3

I am sure that you are au fait with the Matrons' College (1683) and St. Nicholas Hospital (1215), but did you know that the Dean and Chapter were also responsible for Heytesbury Hospital and Almshouses (1449)? The Hospital of St. John, which still flourishes, was founded by Lady Margaret Hungerford. The Chapter minutes record: *The Rev. Walter Herrick was appointed Custos [Keeper] of Heytesbury Almshouses. In October 1836 John Knight held the same position. Rev. Caleb Cohen Master and Keeper of the said*

hospital {Heytesbury} Heytesbury, to make a better and more satisfactory account (October 1746). Cohen's faults were spotted by Dr Moss, the Dean's special deputy as Visitor of Heytesbury Hospital (October 1836). In April 1837 they had to defend a petition filed in the Court of Chancery in the matter of Heytesbury Hospital. Heytesbury Hospital and Master of the Almshouse of Walter Lord Hungerford and Robert his son late Lords of Hungerford and Heytesbury, Custos of the poor men and one poor woman. Rev. Arthur Davis Clutson vicar of Heytesbury presented (November 1911).



EX LIBRIS

Part of the 'haul' from the Museum was a book entitled

City of Salisbury, compiled by the Salisbury and District Society of Arts and published by Phoenix House in 1957. It contains some interesting insights.

Henry Wansey (1751 - 1827), antiquarian of Warminster, records that Mawardens Court in Stratford-Sub-Castle was formerly the Deanery and Succentor's house (to the north of it) for the cathedral at Old Sarum. The Parliament Tree (J&T No.28), now marked by a stone on the footpath to the south of Old Sarum, and under which the members of the rotten borough were elected, marked the site of the market square and perhaps a Town House.

Bishop Bingham built the chapel of St. John (now a house) on Ayleswade bridge. On Midsummer Eve, 23rd June, the Vigil of St. John the Baptist, the members of the Tailors' Guild went in procession through the streets to the chapel of their patron saint.

Today, behind the uninteresting facade of Windover House in St. Ann Street, many remains of the old friary are carefully preserved. It is possible to see the refectory, the courtyard and the well, and a wealth of stone and timber has survived (I will investigate).

It is thought that the path that stretches round the church [St. Thomas'] from Silver Street to Minster Street was a Pilgrims' Walk and the old Crucifixion, still to be seen on the south wall (right) was placed near a box for their offerings.



Later, the butchers were forbidden to cast entrails into the Town Ditch or over Fisherton Bridge, 'except it be in the current or shower of the river, or else in the usual place down the stairs appointed' (The passage-way to the 'usual place' was probably the one facing the New Canal, running alongside the present Woolworth building). I think this unlikely, but



to the north is another, much older, passage (left) that comes out at the steps near the bridge.

The Confraternity of Salisbury Cathedral was a highly prized association to which a number of important people belonged. John of Gaunt, Henry Bolingbroke, Henry of Monmouth, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, Joan, Queen of Henry IV, and Cardinal Beaufort were among its members. The solemn service of admission to the Confraternity were occasions which filled the city with noble personages and their retinues.

NEWS

The Cathedral Masons have got the job of repairing the Poultry Cross and at last the finance has been made available by the Council. The masons will be checking the whole structure and cleaning it up.

The Theological College have a wonderful library and there is at present a special offer of membership for a year at a reduced cost of £5. If you are interested in research, I recommend obtaining a ticket from the Librarian.

Ian Wheeler writes: I have received a preliminary report from Dr. Dan Miles via our Clerk of Works, Gary Price. The full details will be available once the relevant student thesis has been fully evaluated. The use of *Stable Isotope Tree Ring Dating* at Swansea University has given results that, as in 2004/8, show that the timbers in the spire were cut later than 1350, most indicating the early 1360's. This ties in perfectly with the Great Storm of 1362, Das Grote Mandrenke, as suggested in my booklet (See J&T No.87).