



A Salisbury-Cathedral-centric view of History.

Editor: Mark Brandon: markandsuebrandon@outlook.com

WEBPAGE: jot-and-tittle.com Please note that all editions will best be available by joining the subscribers mailing list, either via the web-page or by e-mail to the editor.

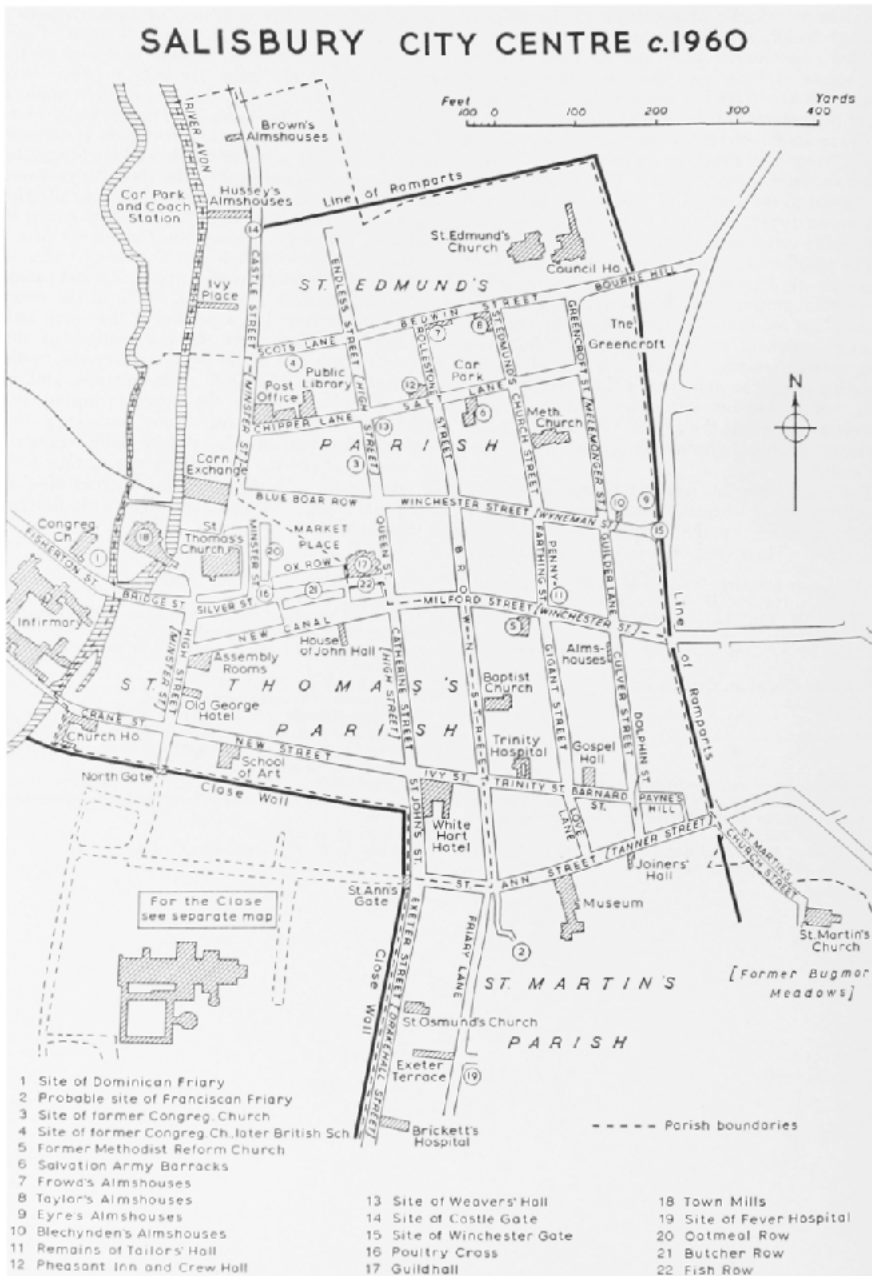
UP YOUR STREET

One of our regular readers asked if we could look into an explanation of Salisbury Street names. So let us start with the laying out of the original city. The Bishop and Elias of Dereham, having designed the Close were somewhat constrained in siting the town, especially as Fisherton and Harnham were privately owned. Bugmore (Friary and Churchill Gardens) was too marshy and there was already a church and hamlet at St. Martins and the Bishop's mill no doubt had dwellings around it. It looks likely that the Close's North Walk was aligned with St. Ann Street. An east-west road came down Milford Hill and crossed the river at Fisherton Bridge with a north-south road coming from Old Sarum to the Close. There was also another north-south line: the present day Endless Street - Exeter Street.



The first phase of building was modest, using New Street as a boundary but soon progressed to the New Canal line. This then formed the southern demarcation of the Market place. The rows we know as Oat, Butcher and Fish were originally just stalls and St.Thomas' would have also been part of the market area. Blue Boar Row would have been the limit of building before the next stage to Bedwin Street.

The grid pattern was only not seen more often in England as landscape and earlier development did not allow it. Ludlow however is built on a grid. Similarly, diverting the river through the



town was not unknown; Stockbridge and Wilton are examples close by. Medieval chequers equate to the Roman *insulae* (islands) and the US' blocks in a gridded city layout. There were 21 chequers named after main buildings, usually hostelries but sometimes called after prominent property owners such as Swayne's, Vanner,s and Rolfe,s. This system made it easier to divide up into burgage tenements, originally 7 perches by 3 perches (around 35 metres long by 15metres wide). Incidentally, Mitre House on the corner of High St. and New St. has the reputation of being the first house built in New Sarum.

I have looked at the streets before in J&T Nos. 2 and 15. A study of old maps shows that the original High Street was Endless Street, Queen Street and Catherine Street but the current High Street was known as *le Heystrete* by 1420 showing that the City

Fathers had failed to move the centre of gravity eastwards. Also Castle Street (page 1 painting by Louise Rayner *courtesy of Christies Artfunded in 1994*), Silver Street and High Street were originally Minster Street (the way to the Cathedral). My theory was that this showed the evolution of the city: as more dwellings appeared so the addresses needed to me more defined.

We have also talked about Clarendon Estate not wanting the Winchester road on their land, resulting in the Winchester Street name being moved from what is now Milford Street to its present position. Before that it was known as *Wyneman* Street. Others streets have changed names over the years with Catherine Street being *Carterestrete* in 1339 - the home of the cart makers. By 1623 it had changed to Katherine Street. I wonder if this was named after the saint of catherine-wheel fame who became the patron of wheelwrights, spinners and millers? The Trafalgar Hotel in Milford Street was originally the Catherine Wheel.

Street names do of course carry a story. Blue Boar Row (originally *Blew Bore* and the heraldic arms of the de Vere's, Earls of Oxford) recorded in 1751 was named after a much older inn. This is now beneath Debenhams (previously Style & Gerrish) - and I am delighted that the site

owners, Bradbeers of Romsey, will be reopening this autumn. Chipper Lane comes from the medieval *chiperie*, place of the market men. Endless Street dates at least from 1339 and was the road intended to lead out of the city but became severed by the city defences. In 14th century deeds the Endless Street to Ayleswade Bridge road was termed *Altus Vicus* in the sense of King's Highway.

The Market: Butcher Row, *Bocherewe* in 1380, referred to the north side only with the south being *Potrew* (1350) as potters had their stalls in this area. New Canal was originally *Ironmonger Row*; yes, the market really stretched that far. Fish Row was *Fisherowe* in 1554 and *Fysschamels* in 1314. *Otemele Corner* was the western end of Pot Row but the name spread to the western edge of the square. Allum & Sidaways the jewellers on the end of Oatmeal Row used to be The Portman Building Society. Before the building was Victorianised however it used to be *New Sarum House* and was the home of Main & Sons corn and seed merchants. By the way, the precursor of our Poultry Cross was known as *la Fayrecroys* (1351) as fruit and vegetable stalls were there. Names that have completely disappeared are *Ironmonger Row* and *Cordwainer Row*.



Crane Street was named after what is now Rechabite House. Many houses displayed heraldic symbols; this did not mean they were necessarily an inn. For instance the archway entrance into Church House in the same street was built in the fifteenth century by a wealthy clothier, William Lightfoot, who called his house *The Falcon*. There have been many stories about the derivation of Gigant Street but the most likely, bearing in mind its fifteenth century name of *Gygornestrete*, is from *gigour* meaning fiddler. One of the most intriguing facts is that part of Brown Street was known as *Tuttebelles* Street (13th and 14th centuries). Water lane was originally an extension of Scots Lane on the other side of Castle Street where it led to the canals' controlling river sluice. Guilder Lane is believed to be named after the medieval guilds and Pennyfarthing Street after the settlement of the masons' request for a pay-rise.



Trinity Street is of course named after Trinity Hospital and St. Ann Street (after St. Ann's Gate) was originally *St. Martin's Street* from the church to which it led. In the 16th century it changed to *Tanner's Street* (the smelly occupations were confined to the eastern side of the city) until the eighteenth century. The adjoining St. Martin's Church Street was at one time *Hampton's Way* as it probably led on to the ancient Clarendon - Southampton road.

At the other end of St. Ann Street, where it joined Brown Street, there used to be a bridge over one of the 'canals' and known as Friar's Bridge after the Dominican Friary. The lane that now goes to the new Friary used to be known as *Freren Street*. Culver Street was a known name in the 14th century (for ladies of 'ill repute') but both Culver and Guildler lane were also called *Bell-founder's Street* (bell foundry above). Greencroft Street started life as *Melemonger Street* (the street of meal sellers).

Exeter Street was formally *Draghall Street* but the name changed to *Drakehall Street*, named after Drake's Hall. Rolleston Street was *Rolvoston* named after a Rolfe in 1455. Scots Lane is thought to have been named after John Scot (1269) whose house stood at its western end and Brown Street may also be a personal name. Nuggescorner at the junction of Blue Boar Row and Endless Street took its name from the property's original owner Hugh Nugge in 1269. Barnard Street was originally *Bernewellcros* implying that the original cross was sited by a spring by a barn. It is more likely though to be named after the family of de Bernewell. Neighbouring Payne's Hill came from a family of that name in the 1600s.

The city was at first divided into 4 wards of Aldermanries; New Street, Market, Meads and St. Martins (*Novus Vicus, Forum, Pratum and Sanctus Martinus*). Later into the parishes of St. Martins, St. Thomas' and St. Edmunds.

Bibliography: *Ancient and Historical Monuments in the City of Salisbury*, RCHM 1980

Endless Street, John Chandler, Hobnob Press 1987.

A History of Salisbury, E E Dorling James Nisbet 1911.

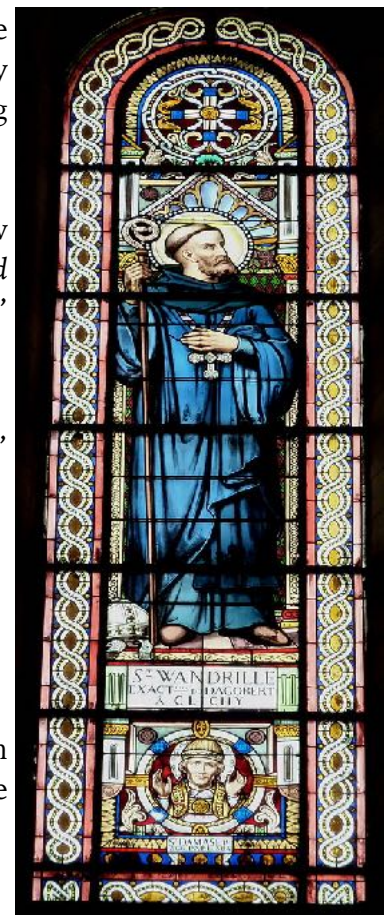
Salisbury, History around us, John Chandler Hobnob Press 2020.

British History Online (Victoria County History).

CANON FODDER

The constitution by Bishop Osmund forbade any monk from becoming a canon. However, by the time of Bishop Roger we know of three from Normandy abbeys:

Prebend of Okebourne - Abbot of Bec (see J&T No.117)



Prebend of Upavon - Abbot of St. Wandragesil (saint's window page 4)

Prebend of Loders - Abbot of St. Mary Montereagh

Then of course there was the abbot of Sherborne whose canonry is now our museum. That is why you can see courses of yellow Ham stone (from Yeovil).

SAINT EDMUND

Not to be confused with the East Anglian one at Bury St Edmunds, ours was 300 years later (1175) and from Abingdon in Berkshire. His mother, Mabel, was an ascetic, wearing not only a hair shirt but also a breastplate!!!! she was ambitious for her children and sent Edmund and Robert, her two eldest, to Oxford to learn Grammar and Logic. This was in pre-college days and the large buildings were all religious. No doubt inspired by his mother, Edmund learned to concentrate his formidable mind. He also made a vow of perpetual chastity. Following their sojourn in Oxford, Mabel sent the boys to Paris, the greatest university of the period.



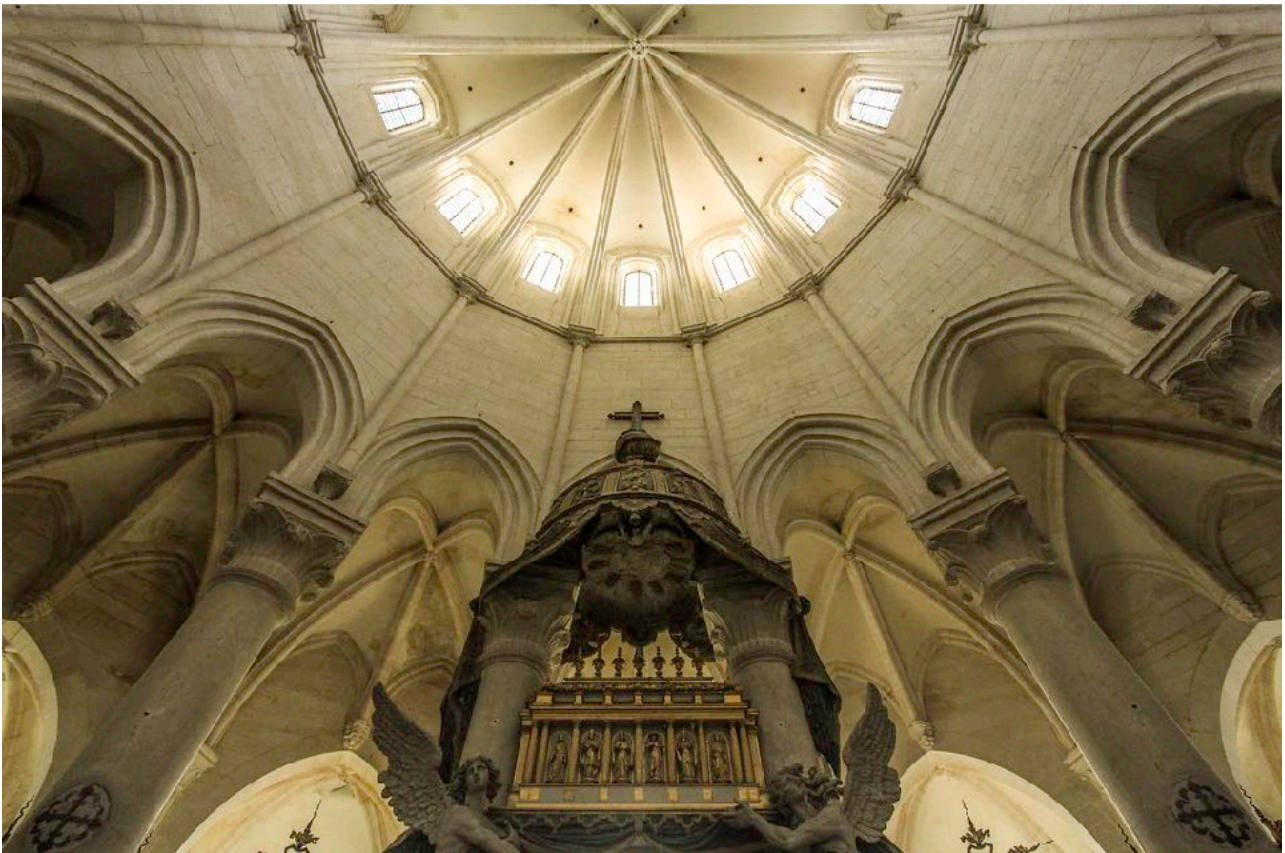
Robert succeeded by hard work but Edmund was simply a brilliant scholar. On hearing of their mother's illness they both rushed home in time to receive her blessing and for

Edmund to take over as head of the family. He searched hard to find a suitable home for his two sisters before settling on Catesby Nunnery on the borders of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. Following a dream of his mother he dedicated his life to the priesthood, starting with the Augustinian Merton Abbey (Wimbledon) where Thomas Becket had been educated. Then (1201) the two brothers returned to Paris to study theology.

He returned to Oxford as Regent in Theology with a wide reputation and soon earned his Doctor of Divinity. Students flocked to hear him, including one Richard de la Wych who became his devoted friend. As a result of his lectures seven left at once to join the Cistercians. One, Stephen of Lexington also became a faithful friend to Edmund. He eventually became Abbot of Stanley, Savigny and finally Clairvaux. The bronze (top right) by Rodney Murray is at St. Edmund Hall where his poverty contrasts with him being celebrated as Oxford's first Archbishop of Canterbury.

Edmund's motto was *Study as if you were to live forever: live as if you were to die tomorrow*. The church in which he constantly prayed became a ruin but was incorporated into St. Edmund Hall. In 122 he was appointed Treasurer of Salisbury and given the prebend of Calne. One of his tasks was to update the Sarum Rite to fit the new Cathedral. He constantly gave away his income and possessions to feed the poor and remained in debt. As a Canon he spent 3 months of the year at Salisbury with the other 9 months looking after his flock in Calne and the nearby Stanley Abbey. He watched over his sisters with great care and became a firm friend of the widow Ela Longespee who he encouraged to found Augustinian Lacock and Carthusian Hinton Charterhouse.

The Pope used Edmund's eloquence to preach the Sixth Crusade and in 1229 the Pope 'campaigned' for Edmund to become Archbishop of Canterbury. Edmund was a scholar not an administrator but he gave in when he found that the alternative would be a foreigner. Unfortunately, Henry III constantly took the advice of Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, and foreign advisors which caused friction. Edmund however could be determined to do what was right, come what may. He also kept the Pope from too much interference but was not helped by the back-stabbing of the Canterbury Cathedral Chapter. Finally, on one of his journeys to Rome he became ill in France and was taken to one of his favourite Abbeys, Pontigny, where he passed away. His brother kept faith with him always, as did his Chancellor, Richard de la Wych. Edmund died in 1240 and was canonised in 1246 to much acclaim. In the presence of King Louis IX he was translated to an elaborate shrine over the high altar in Pontigny, and is there to this day - in France he is known as St. Edme. His chancellor was also canonised and is in fact Chichester Cathedral's St. Richard.



I am indebted to *Treasure of Salisbury, St Edmund of Abingdon* by Cecil Plaxton (The Abbey Press 1971). The photo of his shrine in Pontigny is by Lawrence OP.

WHO'S WHO

Walter Fitz Edward (1091 - 1147,) was constable of Old Sarum and founded Bradenstoke Priory.

His son Patrick (1122 - 1168) became 1st Earl of Salisbury and was also uncle to William the Marshal.

Patrick's son the 2nd Earl was William Fitz Patrick (1150 - 1196) whose daughter was.....

Ela, 3rd Countess of Salisbury (1187 - 1261) and who of course married William Longespée.