

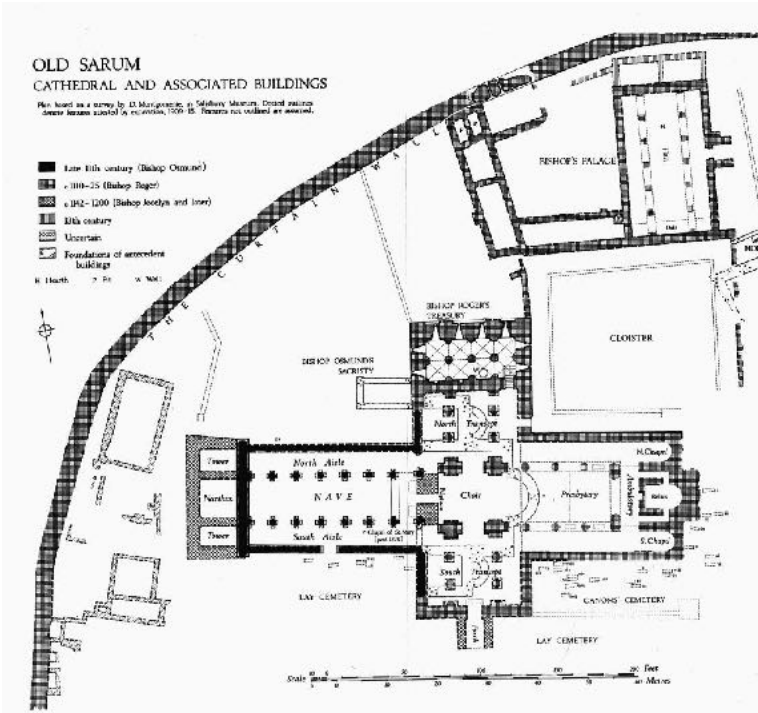


Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards
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WHY DO WE HAVE CLOISTERS?

You may have noted from earlier articles that I have never been very keen on the idea that they were built purely to process around. I have also pointed out that the scriptorium at Old Sarum had a great reputation; so what happened to it after the move to New Sarum? My theory has

been that the Cloisters were where the scribes sat in *carels* in order to get sufficient light to copy books.

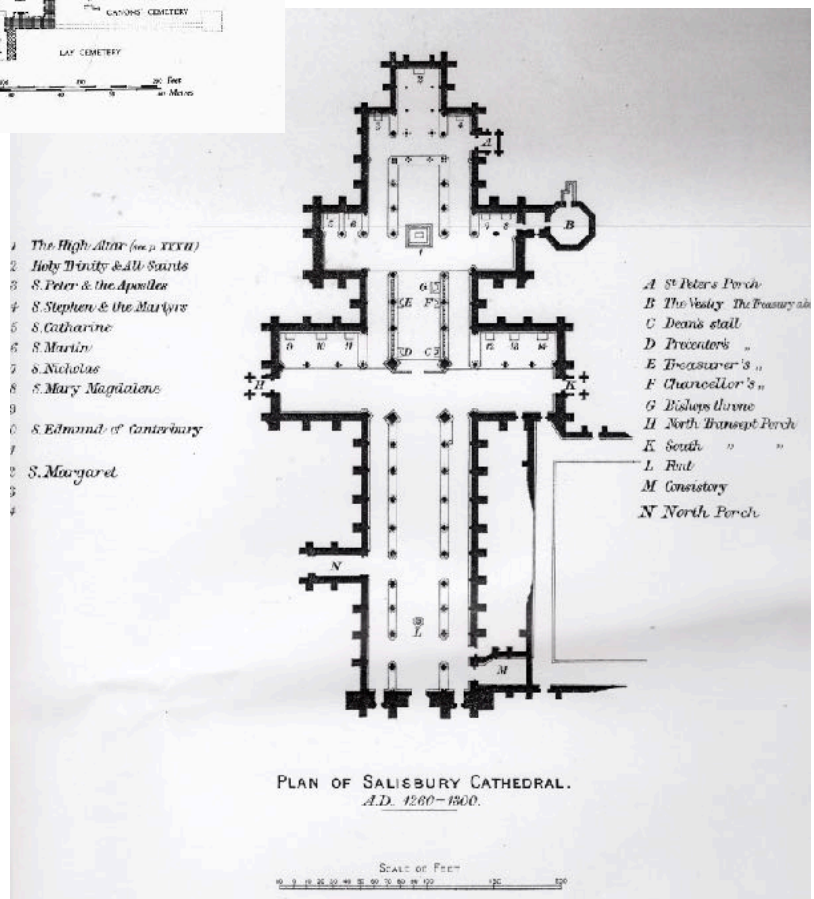


Whilst awaiting the arrival of Emily Naish one day, I sat in her office and picked up a book to while away the time. It turned out to be the *Vetus Registrum Sarisberiense*, the old register of St. Osmund also known as the *Osmundi Consuetudinarium* and the *De Officiis Ecclesiasticus Tractatus* (amended by Richard Poore), in Latin with translations and notes by W.H.Jones,

Canon of Sarum and Vicar of Bradford-on-Avon, printed by Longman & Co. in 1883. The original was in 'contracted Latin' (a la Magna Carta) of the 13th century.

You can see from the plan above that Old Sarum cathedral only had one door into the cloisters which did not make it easy to process around.

St.Osmund's Register also includes a plan of the new cathedral labelled AD 1260-1300 (see right) which has exactly the same access to the cloisters and not as we have at present.



In Canon Jones' translations there is a detailed description of the 'processing' as part of the Sarum Rite, and it is noticeable that nearly all processing is within the cathedral itself - no mention being made of the cloisters.

On special occasions they would leave via the west doors and walk around the 'cemetery'. This is especially true at Easter when there would have been penitents waiting outside for forgiveness.

As I have stated before, History is not an exact science, and I know John Elliott has been working on the architecture of the Consistory Court so I will report on his findings (and any of your comments) in a later edition, especially with reference to its south door. Incidentally, when you are in the court, facing the reception kiosk, the wall decoration over the Court's north door looks distinctly odd. We should also bear in mind that the original plan for the cloisters was extended both to the south and the west after the Bishop gave the Dean & Chapter more land.

THE NORFOLK CONNECTION

Friends of ours live in a delightful house that was once The Old Norfolk Hero. This of course refers to Nelson but I think Elias of Derham is a much better candidate. In the last edition I mentioned that there was confusion over the spelling of his Leadenhall canonry. Sue Allenby (our colleague and now author) gave an original explanation when she wrote to me.....

Now then. When yew say Leadenhall, just yew take a breath in and put yer emphasis on the first syllable as yew breathe out, with that first 'e' bein' pronounced almost like an Old English 'ae' diphthong – only these duzzy new machines don't seem t' do them anymore - then yew hardly have t'say the second syllable – and don't forget to leave out the 'h' as yer voice roises slightly and keep that second syllable short. Leydenhall or to put 't another way Laayd'nall If yew got that yew can almost talk Norfolk. A hall is only a shortn'in of hall house – which is what they was – thass the construction yer see, with the great hall open up t' rafters so the smoke (pronounce it smook) don't hang around where everyone is sittin' down when it's docky toime.

If you have difficulty pronouncing the above just think of the Singing Postman (1964) and *Hev Yew Gotta Loight Boy*.

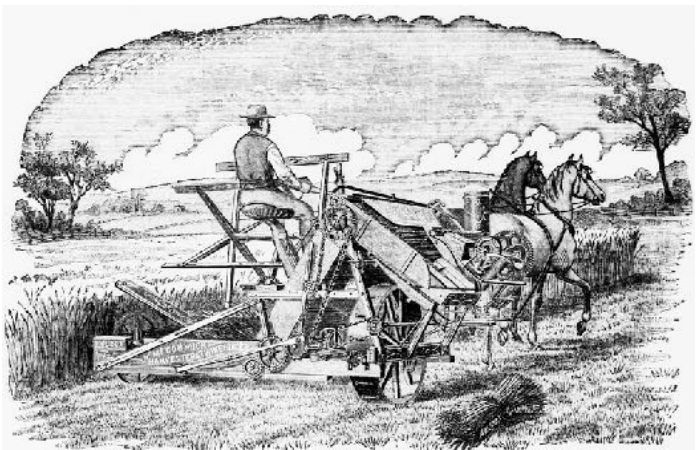
THE GREAT DEPRESSION

No, not that one, the Agricultural Depression from 1873 to 1896 when the opening up of the American prairies resulted in cheap grain imports (below, McCormick harvester in the US) and a subsequent fall in UK farmers' incomes. This followed a period when, as a result of scientific breeding, farmers achieved the highest crops ever recorded. With no Corn Laws to protect them, income from farming dropped dramatically.

There were also bad harvests in 1875, 1877, 1878 followed by a wet summer in 1879.

This state of affairs is reflected in the Chapter minutes by a continuous stream of requests for a reduction in farm rental.

1880 - 1886: *Tenants allowed a one-off gratuity of £10 percent upon the half-year's rents due at Michaelmas in consequence of the difficult times. The Chapter agreed to grant to the tenants a gratuitous allowance of £10 percent upon the half*



years rents due at Lady-Day last in consequence of the continued difficulties of the times.

Tilshead Farm asks for permanent reduction in rent. Not agreed but £15 per cent allowed on next 6-months rent. Later reduced to £65.

Young's farm Stratford-sub-Castle wants rent reduced by £200. Chapter refuse but offer a one-off £100 for wire fencing and grass seed for laying down permanent pasture.

Figheldean farm looking for rent reduction. Mr Rigden [Surveyor] to decide.

Rent of Rack Close in the occupation of Archdeacon Sanctuary to be reduced from £25 to £20 per annum.

£50 allowance on Stratford rent agreed provided his payments were on time.

Preshute vicar's request for further allowance declined and his views on the land not accepted. Agreed to a reduction in rent for Ford mill.

Marlow's farm tenant wont pay more than £270 rent; Chapter accepts.

Mr Ruming of Alton farm, Figheldean. If he pays his rent on time they will give him a £25% reduction.

£15% reduction agreed for tenants but tenant of Bishopdown Farm to receive it only if he withdraws notice to quit.

Mr Gay of Bishopdown Farm offers a rent amount which is not acceptable.

Chapter agree to reduce Mr Husseys rent at Tilshead to £100.

Agree a £15% reduction of rent on Alton Farm, Figheldean provided arrears paid and future payments punctual.

Mr Young's farm Stratford-sub-Castle. Mr Rigden authorized to make an offer of £10% reduction for two years.

Of course it wasn't long before the Cathedral had to cut its own expenditure *in consequence of the straitened circumstances*. In June 1888 there is a whole list of savings such as:

Librarian -£10; Master of Choristers School -£25; Organist -£20; Clerk of Works -£32 down to Workman - 3/-. Pensions were also reduced and the office of Bell Boy was abolished.

As you would (cynically) expect, there is no minute of the Dean and Chapter having an income reduction. In fact a note of the same month shows that *Residence Money* paid by the Dean and Residential Canons to the four senior Laymen would be replaced by money from the Communar's Account. This in effect would leave them with still more money!!!!!!!

THE SYNOD

In October 1888 the Bishop calls a Diocesan Synod, summoning the Cathedral Clergy through the Dean, the Diocesan Clergy through the Rural Deans, the Saint Andrew's Missioners through the Rev.Hooper. Deacons were to be summoned but not allowed to speak unless requested. Any space left could be used for accredited reporters and strangers (the public) who the President could ask to leave.

The Agenda comprised:

1. The Archbishop's encyclical letter
2. Temperance
3. Socialism
4. Emigration
5. Foreign reforming movements
6. Purity
7. Divorce
8. Observance of lord's Days



9. Mutual relations of dioceses
10. Revision of the prayer Book
11. Home reunion
12. Eastern churches
13. The tithe question
14. Clergy Discipline Bill
15. Definite teaching of the Faith

'In favour of Peace and Restraint of Litigation' was not agreed *as possibly giving a handle for complaint by laymen of a certain class against their clergy.*

Looking at the above, it would not be out of place today - plus ça change.

THE TREE OF DEMOCRACY

Serendipity - whilst Googling Old Sarum I came across the Parliament Tree! Elections in Old Sarum were conducted on a mobile hustings under a specific tree, which died in 1905, in what was known as the 'electing acre'. The last reported contested election in Old Sarum occurred at a by-election in November 1751, after the death of Paul Jodrell. The proprietor at the time, Thomas Pitt, had sold the privilege of choosing the Members to the Pelham Government for £2,000 and a pension of £1,000 a year, but the administration's choice of Simon Fanshawe was



opposed by James Pitt (younger brother of George Pitt, Member for Dorset) and by John Thorold. The number of votes for each candidate was not recorded. The memorial (left) reads.....

This stone erected by the Corporation of New Sarum commemorates that near this spot beneath the spreading branches of an elm tree Members of Parliament for the Borough of Old Sarum were in former times elected most notable of whom was WILLIAM PITT afterwards Earl of Chatham "Clarum et venerabile nomen gentibus et multum nostrae quod proderat urbi" who forged those links of Empire which now bind our fellow citizens beyond the seas in affection to the mother country.

Wherefore let this place be forever enshrined in the hearts of our countrymen.

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This site was restored and a new elm tree planted by Salisbury MP Robert Key on 7th June 2000 following collaboration between English Heritage, Ordnance Survey, Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.