



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards
Mark Brandon - markandsuebrandon@outlook.com

E&OE

*That the southern part of the Library be taken down as far as the partition supported by the cloysters which were never designed originally to bear so great a weight - **November 1758.***

Please note that the date was wrongly given in the last edition. Interestingly, further down in those particular minutes the Clerk goes on to record:

The roof of the northern part of the Library where the theological lectures antiently used to be given by the Chancellor of the Church be taken down. The walls lowered and a new and higher roof be placed in its room. 'In its room' was the convention at that time for 'replaced by'.

DEATH OF ALBERT

January 1862: *The following address to Her majesty of condolence on the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort was ordered to be engrossed on vellum sealed with the Chapter Seal and forwarded by the Actuary [Chapter Clerk] to the Right Honorable Sir George Grey Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department. Sir George Grey, 2nd Baronet was a Whig politician and actually became Home Secretary three times. Typical of the period, he was a sportsman, fluent in Latin, Greek and Hebrew and a devoted family man. Although of the aristocracy, his mother was the daughter of Samuel Whitbread the brewer..*

The Queen was of course Head of the Church and absolutely devoted to Albert. So the words of the Dean and Chapter seem very apposite. Here is an excerpt: *By his promotion of education, his encouragement of science, his patronage of art and his enlightened efforts to ameliorate the condition of the laboring classes. no less than by the noble example he exhibited of unsullied purity of life in the most exalted station - he has earned a lasting title to the gratitude and admiration of his adopted country.* Albert was certainly a case of the right person at the right time and his numerous achievements set a high standard for the Royal consorts that followed.

Part of my wine career involved working in Kennington near The Oval. Whilst walking through the park I came across this set of 'Model' labourers cottages (right) designed by Albert and which originally formed part of the Great Exhibition.



THE CHOIR SCHOOL

In April 1862 a letter was sent from the Headmaster to parents relaying a decision of the Chapter. *After Christmas, no boarders should be allowed in the Choristers School.* The letter was signed Wm. Hony *Custos Puerorum*. This does not mean that choristers could not board but the Headmaster would no longer be able to supplement his income by educating non-singing pupils.

A FISHER OF MEN

Last time we referred to this parish but in July 1862 there is an entry into the minutes as follows: *A presentation to the united vicarages of Chitterne All Saints and Chitterne Saint Mary in the county of Wilts and diocese of Sarum also vacant by the death of the Reverend William Macdonald in favor of the Reverend Cecil Edward Fisher Bachelor of Arts, student of Christ Church Oxford on the nomination of the Reverend Canon [William] Fisher whose turn it was.*

As you can see the Canons took it in turn to nominate incumbents and this often took the form of what we would see as nepotism. I am not sure what relation Cecil is to William but William himself was the nephew of the previous bishop. Then it gets a bit complicated; The Reverend John Fisher (William's brother) had a nephew who was Archdeacon John Fisher who lived in Leadenhall and befriended John Constable. I hope you are now as confused as I am!

JUDGEMENT OF SOLOMON

Dispute between Mrs Barnard and Mrs Story, Matrons of the College, in relation to the garden. Mr Price ordered to measure the ground and divide it equally (October 1745).

Also in October 1745 Archdeacon Rolleston was accused about Catherine Munday, servant of Mr Joseph Sager of the Close *hath had carnal knowledge of her body several times and did beget her with child.*

THE APPRENTICE

When young boy choristers' voices had broken they were apprenticed to merchants. The Chapter then paid the indenture fee in two *moieties* (parts). Examples of the trades involved:

1746 Brush-maker, Salisbury

1799 Cordwainer (shoemaker) and Cutler, Salisbury

1780 Coach-maker, Bristol

1787 Apothecary, Salisbury

1835 Grocer, Ditchampton

1846 Printer and Coach Builder, Salisbury

1836 Saddler and Harness Maker and Watch and Clock Maker, Salisbury
1852 Stationer, Salisbury
1852 Grocer and Provision Agent, Salisbury
1855 Hair Dresser and Perfumer, Salisbury
1857 Linen and Woollen Draper, Salisbury. He obviously did not like the job and got re-apprenticed to a Chemist and Druggist in Winchester
1860 Chemist and Druggist, Shaftesbury

However, some were obviously talented as choristers:

1848 Apprenticed to Music Master and Organist, Salisbury
1836 *Henry Richardson apprenticed to Mr A J Corfe, Organist and Professor of Music for four years from St. Thomas day. Similarly John Elliott Richardson for five years to learn Music and Harmony.*
1852 Edward Osmond apprenticed to Mr Richardson, Organist and music Master, Salisbury
1860 Sidney Mitchell articulated to Mr Richardson Organist and Pianoforte Professor

And there were exceptions:

£10 to Mr Tovey towards advancing his son who has not been apprenticed (1857)

At his request the apprenticeship fee of Chorister Joseph Thomas Young should be expended in continuing his education at the Cathedral School (1861).

THE VOCABULARY

Here are some of the terms frequently used:

1856 - *Mr Drage one of the Laymen of the Cathedral appointed **Pricker** = in music, the same root as point in counterpoint.*

1743 - Canon Wishar appointed **Locum Tenens** for the Dean = authorised substitute.

1820 - *Rev. Mr Treasurer Hume, the **Communar** for the year ending Michaelmas = originally a monastic administrator but then a Bursar. This is one of the posts the Residential Canons elected each other into annually. Sometimes it was something of an honorary post so a **Sub-Communar** was also added to do the actual work.*

1742 - **Hayward** appointed for the Close = to cut the grass.

1726 - Thomas Colman was appointed **Constable** and **Organ Blower**, both activities requiring muscle?

1804 - **Dog Whipper** appointed, I wish they would bring him back!

1774 - Installation of Canon Hume into the office of **Chantor**. This came from the Jewish Cantor (leading the singing) and gave rise to the **Cantoris** (north) side of the Cathedral, as opposed to the (south) **Decanal**.

1812 - **Proctor** elected to attend Archbishop's convocation at St. Paul's = similar to Locum Tenens but not based in the Cathedral. Sometimes when visiting distant parts of the diocese a **Commissary** went in the Bishop's stead = fielding a substitute.

1757 - **President of the Chapter** = usually the Dean or his Locum Tenens.