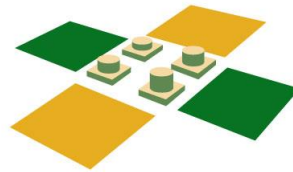


# PROCESSIONS AT SALISBURY CATHEDRAL IN THE LATER MIDDLE AGES

HANDOUT FOR PRESENTATION



THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL  
OCTOBER 2011



THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP  
IN LATE MEDIEVAL  
CATHEDRAL AND  
PARISH CHURCH

## Processions at Salisbury Cathedral in the late Middle Ages

*An introduction by Professor John Harper  
Saturday 8 October 2011*

Processions begin and end in the Quire

### ***Processions after Vespers to a specific location with a specific intention***

*Saturday from Easter Octave to All Saints:  
to the Cross*

*25 Dec: Christmas Day/Eve of St Stephen  
to the altar of St Stephen (deacons)*

*26 Dec: St Stephen/Eve of St John  
to the altar of St Peter (priests)*

*27 Dec: St John/Eve of Holy Innocents  
to the Trinity Altar (boys)*

*28 Dec: Holy Innocents/Eve of St Thomas of Canterbury  
to the altar of St Thomas*

[comparable processions to all the altars in the cathedral  
on the Eve of the Feast of the saint(s) to which the altar is dedicated after Vespers]

### ***Processions to perform a specific rite: Easter Vigil***

lighting of the new fire (from Quire to column south of font)  
blessing of new water in the font (from Quire to font, and back)

### ***Processions marking the solemnity of a feast***

*on certain great feasts after Vespers*

*and before Mass on certain feast days*

from Quire (south door) down south aisle, up nave to station before the Rood, then  
return to Quire from west end

*in Easter Week after Vespers*

as above, but with stations at both font and Rood

*before Mass on greater feast days (e.g. Christmas)*

from Quire (west door), round north and south Quire aisles, through south  
transept, clockwise round three sides of cloisters, in at west end through  
consistory court, nave to station before the Rood, then back into Quire

*Processions on Palm Sunday, Pentecost, and feast of Dedication of  
the Church (Palm Sunday with second procession and more stations)*

from Quire (west door), round north and south Quire aisles, through south  
transept, clockwise round three sides of cloisters, out through canons' door,  
clockwise round outside of the cathedral, short way down fourth side of  
cloisters, out through canons' door again, then enter cathedral through the  
great west doors, up the nave to station before the Rood, then back into  
Quire

*on Ascension Day and Corpus Christi*

out through great west doors, clockwise round outside of graveyard wall,  
into cloisters and round three sides, out through canons' doorway, and in  
through great west doors

### ***Processions to an external station church in Rogationtide***

to each of the three parish churches (where Mass is celebrated), leaving  
through west doors and north gate of Close, returned through St Anne's gate

### ***Processions of purification***

*of the church before Mass on Sunday*

Blessing of salt and water before the High Altar;

sprinkling of the High Altar; sprinkling of those in Quire;

Procession from north door of Quire round Quire aisles, sprinkling the  
altars, down south aisle, back up nave; station before the Rood, with

Bidding of the Bedes, return to Quire; then priest goes to sprinkle canons'  
graves

*of the church and cloisters before Mass on a Sunday*

*which is also a great feast*

Blessing of salt and water at another altar; entry to Quire and sprinkling of  
High Altar and those in Quire; procession from west door of Quire, round  
Quire aisles, into south transept, round three sides of cloisters, back up nave  
(pause before Rood) and back into Quire (without Bidding of the Bedes or  
sprinkling of canons' graves)