



Welcoming

Welcomer's role – do please:

- Wear a blue sash, name tag and phone guide holder on the lanyard.
- Using the key from the cabinet against the south west wall, change the door setting from “Auto” to “Open”: this keeps the central doors open all the time. Skip if it's very windy and rainy.
- Check both cashless donation units, and if they're not working correctly, inform Steve Hoffman by text or call 07547 056823.
- Put the red A-board welcome sign outside the west door.
- Give visitors a smile but allow them space to look and speak – try to sense what they're seeking. Don't be too eager to rush in.
- If visitors don't want eye contact, leave them alone.
- Assure visitors that you are happy to TRY to answer any questions.
- Point out QR codes for phone mini-guides (15 languages) and full guide in English – present the lanyard holder to scan.
- Use the clicker to count visitors – but not cafe or bookstall users.
- Hand out (when appropriate) printed A5 mini-guides in English, Spanish, German and French or mini brochure with guide map.
- Refer specific or detailed questions to the large laminated information sheets lying on top of the bookcase by the old font.
- Offer binoculars for the roof angels, if appropriate.
- At the end of the session (1) record the number of visitors and other comments (e.g. where visitors came from) in the log book, (2) change the door setting from “Open” to “Auto” and (3) take in the red welcome sign.

Emergency contacts during the vacancy period:

- Churchwardens: cw@stthomassalisbury.co.uk
- Safeguarding officer John Boylan 07850 322334 or email safeguarding@stthomassalisbury.co.uk
- Police/Fire/Ambulance 999
- Police non-emergency 101
- Troublemakers – leave the building and ring one of the above.

Homelessness

Someone homeless, sleeping rough or facing a housing crisis should contact Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0106 (Monday – Friday).

Veterans – local or not - can contact Alabaré on 01722 322882 or through the website <https://alabare.co.uk/what-we-do/veterans>.

Rough sleepers can access the Alabaré drop-in at 58 Barnard Street, Salisbury, SP1 2BJ Phone 01722 334687 Monday to Friday 11am to 3pm.

Mental health help

Alabaré offers a free confidential service aimed at anyone in Wiltshire who is in a mental health crisis or who is struggling to manage their mental wellbeing. Phone 08082 803528, lines open 9am – 11pm seven days a week with drop-in sessions available by arrangement.

Welcomer issues and suggestions:

- Jenny Vokes: 07710 636392 or jennyvokes@gmail.com
- Alexander Heroys: 01722 697311 or heroys4@btinternet.com

Main features of the building:

- Dedicated to Thomas Becket, St Thomas's dates from the late 15th century – a fine example of perpendicular gothic.
- Key dates: records show a church priest at St Thomas's since 1220, chancel collapsed 1447-8, lady chapel built 1450, doom painting 1475, chapels, nave and aisles completed by end of the 15th century, Victorian reordering in 19th century, 2017-2024 reordering with new glass lobby, moveable benches, nave altar/stage, baptismal font, kitchen.
- An active church! Many services, well attended, coffee mornings, concerts, choral music, children's corner, other activities.
- Doom painting facts: painted around 1475, whitewashed during the Reformation, rediscovered and overpainted in the 19th century, restored several times, last time in 2019 as near to the original as it was possible to tell.
- Doom painting meaning: In the final judgement, Jesus the divine judge sits on an upside down rainbow, separating the "sheep" from the "goats". The sheep on our left enter the heavenly Jerusalem behind him, the goats on our right go down to eternal fire, devoured by the monster.
- Nave altar (2019) and font (2024): staves of tiger oak represent church members springing from one source, rising upwards and outwards, all different, all flawed, all beautiful, all loved by God and forming a cohesive whole. Designed and made by Matthew Burt, a local craftsman – details in the welcomers' file.
- Angels (250+) on walls and ceilings, a few revealed in 2019 (nave) and 2025 (lady chapel). One unusual nave angel is the tricephalous (3-faced) trinity – more visible in the phone guides or with binoculars in the welcomers' box.

- Original paint colours of beams show how bright the whole church would have been - see roof above the western door and lady chapel ceiling.
- Beckham panel (17C) next to the south door: carved in about 1660 by Humphry Beckham, a local joiner. Shows the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham with probably Salisbury as it was in Beckham's day.
- Over the south door is the Queen Elizabeth I royal coat of arms: note Tudor dragon, not Scottish unicorn (union with Scotland 1707).
- On the wall behind the lectern is a white marble memorial to Joan Popple – it shows the tradition of the rich church members supporting the poor.
- Lady chapel (1450) built by William Swayne, a rich wool merchant and mayor. Six ceiling beams have angels with shields and Latin texts calling for prayers for Swayne family members. The East end has the cleaned and restored 17th and 18th century figures of the Eyre family. Three medieval paintings high up on north wall represent the Annunciation, the Visitation and the Nativity. 15th century stained glass remnants from the destruction during the Reformation.
- Chancel: Victorian musical angels, unusual oil on copper.
- Three-manual Green organ installed in the cathedral in 1792, transferred here in 1877.
- The bell tower holds a ring of eight bells. Outside below the clock face are two quarter bells and two wooden figures called "jacks", dressed in 16th century armour.