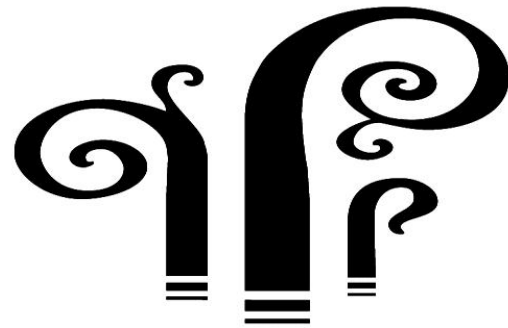


# **Palace Water Walk**



**The Bishop's Palace**

**WELLS · SOMERSET**

**Guides Additional Details**

REF	DETAIL
00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For more than 1500 years occupation of this site has centred on the prehistoric wells which rise in the outer gardens of the Palace. Since the 1200's the Bishop's Palace has been shaped by the presence of the wells and the water which flows from them</li> <li>2. Tradition tells that in 705 King Ine of Wessex gave Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, land at Wells so that he could establish a Minster church here. The earliest reference to this church at 'Wiela' is given in a charter of 766 by King Cynwulf</li> <li>3. Appearance of the site in the 1100's: the Anglo-Saxon Minster visible to the south of where the cathedral is now, but its size and architectural style quite different.</li> </ol>
01	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The larger American Black Walnut tree was planted almost 200 years ago; the same year as Florence Nightingale was born (1820-1910) and King George III died (1738-1820).</li> <li>2. The smaller walnut was planted the mid-1980 to replace the older one that had been struck by lightning and was feared would fall down. <i>(Father &amp; Son)</i></li> </ol>
02	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Known as the Croquet Lawn, the Wells croquet club has played here since 1976.</li> <li>2. Prior to this there had been a tennis court where the magnolia is now; Bp. Lord Arthur Charles Hervey (Bp.1869 – 1894) was a keen player and a member of the LTA.</li> </ol>
03	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>The Bishop's Lock-Up</u>: <i>Details will be available at a later date; see 'Annex A – Prisons &amp; Court-Houses' for background information.</i></li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
04	1. <u>The Gate House</u> : Details relating to Bp. Law having the draw bridge raise;, when it was lowered for the last time and any other facts will be available at a later date; see 'Annex B – Gate House' for background information.
05	1. Bp. Robert Burnell (Bp.1275 – 1292) had hoped that Edward I would pay a visit to his Great Hall, but disappointedly his friend the King never came.
06	1. Bp. Burnell's had aspirations to be Archbishop of Canterbury; twice Edward nominated him, in 1270 when Prince and 1278 as King, each time he was blocked by the Pope. 2. Bp. Burnell was rumoured to have a long term mistress – Juliana & 6 illegitimate children. One boy, William Burnell, went on to be Dean of Wells Cathedral (1292-5).
07	1. Ceremonial Porch possibly was of two stories with a vaulted ceiling to the lower space. There were stones steps which lead to a door into the bishop's 'solar', his private apartment. 2. Ceremonial Porches in the 13 <sup>th</sup> century became symbolic place of entry for the lord. In 1244, Henry III, (Edward 1's father), gave orders to, <i>"have an entrance which befits such a Palace, so that the King may dismount from his palfrey with dignity and make his way beneath it"</i> .

REF	DETAIL
08	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. William Worcestre (c. 1415 – c.1482), recorded that the Hall was a traditional aisled structure with a nave and side aisles; it is believed the roof, lead on wood, was probably supported by piers, but no evidence of these have been found.</li> <li>2. Known as ‘end halls’, it had two spaces; the 5-bay hall and ‘bishop’s solar’ at the west end along with the ‘bishop’s garderobe’ in the south west turret which has been described as, “<i>the finest medieval loo in England</i>”.</li> <li>3. Below the solar and screened off from the hall, would have been pantry and buttery with the arched door leading through to the kitchen.</li> <li>4. The ‘high-table’ would have been at the east end.</li> <li>5. The large windows, almost spanned the complete elevation of the hall, had two lights divided by a transom with the lower light shuttered and the upper held glass, shutter hook irons can still be seen.</li> </ol>
09	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 1331, Edward III spent Christmas here with such a large entourage that Bp. Ralph of Shrewsbury (Bp.1329 – 1363) had to spend Christmas at one of the other palaces at Wookey and Banwell.</li> </ol>
10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 1337, Bp. Ralph held a great feast for some 268 people, it cost him £6.10s.7½d, about £6.53p in today’s money.</li> </ol>
11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In November 1539, the last abbot of Glastonbury Abbey, Richard Whiting and his treasurer John Thorne with another monk, Roger James were tried in the Great Hall for treason against Henry VIII.</li> <li>2. Thomas Cromwell (Earl of Essex) – The king’s Chief Minister and (<i>absentee</i>) Dean of Wells (1537-1539/40) - had Whiting initially taken to the Tower of London and then brought back here for the trial. (<i>NB: Cromwell’s nephew, Richard William, alias Cromwell was the great grandfather of Oliver Cromwell</i>)</li> <li>3. They were found guilty and taken to Glastonbury where all three were fastened upon hurdles and dragged by horses to the mount of Glastonbury Tor where they were hanged, drawn and quartered.</li> <li>4. The Abbot’s head was displayed on the gate to the abbey and his limbs distributed throughout the region.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 1552, Sir John Gates acquired the lead and timber from the roof of the Great Hall; the Royal coffers were much depleted due to Henry's wars and the lead was needed to make shot.</li> <li>2. From that time and for the next 300 years, the Great Hall was neglected and fell into ruin.</li> <li>3. In 1553 Gates was executed with his patron, the Duke of Northumberland, by Queen Mary for their part in the Lady Jane Grey plot.</li> </ol>
13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bp. George Henry Law (Bp.1824 – 1845) wanted to design a Picturesque style garden, he had the south and east walls removed – the stone removed was later used for repair and the building work above the Long Gallery.</li> <li>2. At the same time the ground level was raised to its present level; this was achieved by bringing in soil from different parts of Somerset.</li> <li>3. This raising of the ground level has resulted in the squat appearance of the lower windows and doors.</li> </ol>
14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is said that Bp. Thomas Ken (Bp.1685 – 1691) walked these ramparts composing some of his famous hymns and prayers.</li> <li>2. Bp. Ken also composed many other hymns and songs when he was at Winchester, including his time as Royal Chaplain to Charles II.</li> <li>3. There are a number of interesting stories relating to Bp. Ken that can be found in the Palace building.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 1329, Bp. Ralph was granted a royal 'licence to crenellate' (furnish with battlements).</li> <li>2. This allowed him to build the drawbridge, gate house with portcullis and shute for pouring molten lead or oil on attackers.</li> <li>3. The walls were ramparted and strengthened by bastions.</li> <li>4. Finally, he had channelled St Andrews stream to form the moat.</li> <li>5. The bank/mound of earth of the south rampart walk is the soil excavated to make the moat.</li> <li>6. The fortifications would not have deterred a trained army, it wasn't meant to.</li> <li>7. The defences were tested in 1642 during the English Civil War, when Charles I Royalist's army made the Palace its headquarters.</li> <li>8. The Parliamentarian army fired canon from Tor Hill hitting the Palace and doing some damage which caused the Royalists to retreat.</li> </ol>
16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two Mulberry trees (Earl of Cork 1897) &amp; a Black Mulberry tree – the wisest of trees according to the Roman author Pliny.</li> <li>2. English Walnut – the squirrels eat most of the nuts.</li> <li>3. Tree of Heaven – planted in 1890, in China it is traditionally planted when a daughter is born, the wood becoming part of her dowry.</li> <li>4. The Tulip tree - planted by Bp. Peter to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee in 2002.</li> </ol>
17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A dowsing survey of this site has shown where several small streams used to run through the inner gardens, now encircled by the rampart.</li> <li>2. These would have been used to irrigate plots for growing food and medicines.</li> <li>3. An L-shaped canal was created in the middle of the lawn during the 1700's when water features were fashionable in gardens; it may have been used for trout.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Palace Fields were part of a Deer Park.</li> <li>2. Deer was a source of food for the bishop's household. It is hoped to reintroduce deer once again.</li> <li>3. This land is still farmed by the Church Commissioners.</li> <li>4. Palace Farm is located just to the right (west).</li> </ol>
19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surface area of moat is 2 acres with, when over 2 meters/6.5' deep, 18+ million litres/4 million gallons of water.</li> <li>2. The average flow is 181 litres/40 gallons per second. (Approx a bath full. In times of flood it will fill 10 baths a second)</li> <li>3. Every August Bank Holiday, the 'Wells Moat Boat Race' takes place, a charity raft race organized by Wells Lions Club &amp; Air Training Corps.</li> </ol>
20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the 1800's, one of the daughters of the bishop, taught the then swans to pull a rope attached to a bell, which hung from a window of the gate house – when they did so the swans would be fed from the window.</li> <li>2. In 2006, to celebrate 800 years since Bp. Jocelyn of Wells (Bp. 1206 – 1242) was granted land to build the Palace; Queen Elizabeth gave to the Bishop a pair of swans.</li> <li>3. Variety of wildlife on the moat; Muscovy Duck – Mute Swans – Grey Heron – Little Egret – Mallard &amp; Tufted Ducks – Coots – Herring Gulls – Sea/Urban Gulls.</li> <li>4. Kingfishers have been seen and Dippers – Wagtails – Sandpipers have all visited.</li> <li>5. Insects etc seen are: Wasps – Hornets – Dragonflies – Damselflies – Bees.</li> <li>6. Others seen are: Frogs – Toads – Mink – Otters – Bank &amp; Field Voles – Wood Mice – Water Voles occasionally.</li> <li>7. Rats are regular visitors but as these are ecclesiastical rats, they are acceptable.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water collected in a cistern within the Well House flowed through lead pipes to a stone built conduit in the Market Place with 4 taps for the people to draw their water</li> <li>2. On the roof of the Well House is Bp. Bekynton's favourite hunting dog the Talbot.</li> <li>3. Overflow water runs down gutters either side of the High Street.</li> <li>4. The present 'fountain' structure dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is in the same place as the original outlet</li> </ol>
22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some of the water was diverted at Penniless Porch to provide the houses with their own stream, flowing beneath.</li> <li>2. It allowed each householder to dip water for domestic use without having to go outside.</li> <li>3. As well as washing away household rubbish, it was probably used as a very early water closet!</li> <li>4. Water can still be seen today, flowing beneath a glass slab set in the floor of a shop. It is the second building from Penniless Porch.</li> </ol>
23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The wells here and beneath the other pools, rise from an underground river which drains the whole of the East Mendips.</li> </ol>
24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 705, the Anglo-Saxon king, Ine of Wessex (reign 688-726), gave Aldhelm, his bishop, land to build a minster beside these wells.</li> <li>2. Aldhelm of Sherborne (639-709) – abbot of Malmesbury; on the division of Winchester diocese he became Bishop of Sherborne (705-709) – Wells was part of his new See.</li> <li>3. Aldhelm died in 709 whilst on a diocese visit at Doulting. Doulting, between Shepton Mallet and Frome, is where the finer limestone is quarried for the vaulted ceilings in the Bishop's Palace, Chapel and the Cathedral. It is also used for all fine work such as window mullions</li> </ol>



25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Archaeological surveys show that the original minster lay slightly to the south of the present Cathedral.</li><li>2. This would explain why the Market Place and High Street are out of line with the present Cathedral.</li><li>3. Ecclesiastical buildings are, in the main, built on the plane West to East; we enter the church from the West and our Christian journey, (via the nave (ship)), is towards the East (altar) towards Jerusalem.</li></ol>
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REF	DETAIL
26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A stream from this well flowed close to the southern side of the minster.</li> <li>2. Water might have been taken from the stream for some liturgical uses.</li> <li>3. The present day Cathedral is still close to the stream, which for much of its route runs underground.</li> <li>4. The stream continued beyond the Cathedral into the City of Wells, sometimes above and sometimes below ground.</li> </ol>
27	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Book of Revelation (cc 21-22) describes a vision of the City of God.</li> <li>2. Revelation 21 – <i>‘To him who is thirsty I will give to drink ..... from the spring of the water of life’</i> NIV.</li> <li>3. Revelation 22 – <i>‘Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city’</i> NIV.</li> <li>4. Wells, with its ceaseless waters, could be seen as an earthly reflection of this perfect city.</li> <li>5. The West Front of the Cathedral shows the Day of Judgement as described in the Book of Revelation foretelling the entry into the New Jerusalem (Heaven)</li> </ol>
28	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The ‘Pumping Machine’ was in-situ 1886; it is difficult to say when it was installed, but certainly unlikely prior to circa 1850.</li> <li>2. The existence of a filter suggests that the water pump would have been for drinking water as well as for general use.</li> </ol>
29	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bp. Hervey became concerned about the purity of the water.</li> <li>2. He believed an outbreak of typhoid fever in his household might have been caused by drains at the nearby asylum contaminating the ground water which rises in the wells.</li> <li>3. Most of the town’s wells were eventually classified as unfit for drinking because liquid leaked into ground water sources.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prior to Bp. Law's changes the focus would have been on practical management of the water flowing from several well pots in order to maintain supplies to the moat and well house.</li> <li>2. Today, the water levels still need to be managed on a daily basis.</li> <li>3. The Garden Team use the network of channels and sluices to achieve this. If they get it wrong they are likely to have a flood on their hands.</li> <li>4. In very wet weather the water from the remotest swallet, (where a stream disappears into the ground), reaches the well in 24 hours. In times of drought it can take a week or more.</li> <li>5. During the winter months it is drained to prevent flooding.</li> </ol>
31	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sometimes water can be seen bubbling up from what the Somerset historian, John Collinson referred to in 1791 as a '<i>Bottomless well</i>'.</li> <li>2. The sandy bed can sometimes be seen 'boiling' and in constant motion as the water rises through it.</li> </ol>
32	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bishop William Piers (Bp. 1632-1670) had the water stopped from reaching the City of Wells because he was offended that the city corporation had neglected to present the bishop with the customary gift of a silver bowl.</li> <li>2. He was then presented with a silver bowl and gloves for his wife and the water flowed once again.</li> </ol>
33	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Arboretum has a labyrinth of grass pathways threading themselves through natural growing areas.</li> <li>2. Within is one of the finest Foxglove trees in England, (<i>similar in appearance to the Indian Bean tree</i>).</li> </ol>
34	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The allotments are now managed by the City Council and are one of only two within Wells.</li> <li>2. Part of the current development is the increase access to and interpretation of the allotments.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
35	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Garden of Reflection – A quiet area for visitors; where they have space for their own spiritual contemplation.</li> <li>2. Community Garden – A creative project for local people and community groups.</li> <li>3. Orchard – Linking the Community Garden and Garden of Reflection.</li> <li>4. Gardener’s compound and greenhouse.</li> </ol>
36	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Adam &amp; Eve Garden</u> – Created and planted in 2006/7, contains unusual plants of a more woodland nature due to the shady and damp conditions. <i>(see below for details regarding the Adam &amp; Eve Sculpture)</i></li> <li>2. <u>Corner Terrace</u> – New plantings in 2005 it contains an herb garden and the terrace is used as an area for theatrical &amp; musical events and may be further developed. It was the old apple store.</li> <li>3. <u>Hanging Window* Border</u> – One of the newer borders, enclosed with box hedge. <i>*(Architectural term= oriel window).</i></li> <li>4. <u>The East Lawn</u> – Contains the Rotary Club border.</li> <li>5. <u>Phelps Garden</u> – Funded by the Phelps Family of Palace Farm, it is the site of the original gardens laid out in the 1820’s by Bp. Law. In Victorian times it contained 8 squares of box hedge but, in 1914 it was grassed over; most men folk had gone off to the Great War. It was partially reinstated in the 1970’s by Bp. Bickersteth. The large urn dates from 1850.</li> <li>6. <u>Adam &amp; Eve Sculpture</u>: A carving depicting the story in the Book of Genesis; Adam &amp; Eve being expelled from the Garden of Eden after eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The third figure represents the Great Winged Creature (<i>Cherubim- Genesis 3:24</i>) and the fiery sword which guarded the way to the Tree of Life, this figure also has the serpent entwined on it. Carved from a yew tree that was felled in 1946 from a churchyard in Tiverton. It is the work of Mr E.J. Clack and took 2000 hours to carve. It has been in the Palace since 1963. <i>(Cherubim - not to be confused with Putti which are winged human baby / toddler-like beings traditionally used in figurative art)</i></li> </ol>
37	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>The Pelican</u>: Early Christian symbol of the Passion of Christ Jesus. The pelican in her piety is vulning (from the Latin <i>vulno</i> to wound) herself to make her breast bleed; the dripping blood feeds her young. This symbolises Christ on the cross, shedding his blood for God’s children.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
38	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 'Low-Side' window, now blocked up and sitting low to the ground due to the ground level being raised in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was probably used to ring the 'Sanctus Bell' to draw attention, to those working outside the Chapel, to the solemn moment during the celebrating of the Mass.</li> </ol>
39	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bp. Burnell's, Decorated Gothic style chapel can be observed by the wonderfully large windows with decorative tracery, set in deep casements, flanked by Blue Lias, (from the Somerset levels).</li> <li>2. Like the Great Hall, built of red and yellow Triassic sandstone with Douling limestone for the vaulted ceiling.</li> <li>3. The Reformation period was a time of the more puritan minded clergy. The Chapel suffered almost 200 years of neglect until in the 1820's Bp. Law began the tradition of restoration which continues today.</li> </ol>
40	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>East Window</u>: Bp Law found this boarded-up and on removing the boarding discovered most of the window glass broken or missing.</li> <li>2. He sent Somerset men with wagons and horses over to the Rouen region of France and brought back cart loads of French medieval stained glass that had been smashed from the ruined churches during the French Revolution.</li> <li>3. He had this glass made into mosaic patterns that we see today; also in the East Window are modern glass designs: - the Cross of St Andrew – the Arms of bishops Law and Henderson</li> </ol>

41	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Fenestella</i> (<i>Latin: window/gate</i>): This also was boarded-up, it would have been used, before Henry VIII's CofE when the tradition was the Church of Rome, for celebrating the Mass, it comprises of: -</li><li>2. <i>Piscina</i>: A stone basin with drain used to wash hands and holy vessels, as they had been in contact with the elements, during the Celebration of Mass; this water, now sanctified, would drain to the consecrated ground outside.</li><li>3. <i>Sedilia</i>: Graduated stone seats used by the Priest, Deacon and Sub-Deacon. Note how the sanctuary floor has been raised.</li><li>4. <i>Hangings</i>: These were hung in 1960, Winged Lion of St Mark, Great Seal of Bp. Burnell, Arms of bishops Ken and Henderson.</li></ol>
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REF	DETAIL
42	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Pews</u>: Bp. George Kennion (Bp. 1894-1921) in early 20<sup>th</sup> century, commissioned apprentices from Taunton to carve the pews. Each pew has the name of the wood carver's parish of origin.</li> <li>2. Search for the carved mouse and snail.</li> </ol>
43	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Heraldic Frieze</u>: Bp. John Bickersteth (Bp. 1975-1987) in the late 1970's commissioned the green panelling, with bishops from Burnell onwards.</li> <li>2. Two non-mitred, cardinals hats instead.</li> <li>3. Note that not all bishops had Arms but have used other devices, Bp James Thompson (1991-2001) a case in point.</li> </ol>
44	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Alter &amp; Presidential Chair</u>: Bp. Peter Price commissioned these to celebrate 800 years (1206-2006), since Bp. Jocelyn was granted land to build his Palace.</li> <li>2. Designed by David John and made by Richard Richardson, with the chair being made by David John himself.</li> <li>3. Made of maple wood and inlaid with Ancaster stone.</li> <li>4. The legs are connected by a Celtic Knot design to represent reconciliation and connectedness which is the theme.</li> <li>5. The altar rests on Ancaster stone with a circular text of reconciliation carved by John Rowlands Pritchard.</li> <li>6. Engraved from 2 Corinthians 5.18. <i>'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself and he has given to us the ministry of reconciliation'</i>.</li> </ol>
45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Liturgical Colours</u>: The problem was what to do with the altar frontals as it seemed a pity to cover such a wonderful altar with them, thus hiding the workmanship.</li> <li>2. It was Dee, the bishop's wife, who came up with the idea to display them between the columns of the wall behind the altar.</li> </ol>

REF	DETAIL
46	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>The Icons</u>: Continuing the theme of reconciliation with these beautiful icons that seek to illustrate the Bible story of reconciliation.</li> <li>2. The artist; Bulgarian born Silvia Dimitrova, also painted the ‘Stations of the Cross’ in the Cathedral.</li> </ol>
47	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Processional Cross</u>: The processional <i>Resurrection Cross</i> was designed by Pat Sampson and is cast in silver</li> </ol>
48	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>The Ceiling</u>: The vaulted ceiling bosses were painted in the autumn of 2008, using colours similar to those in the Middle Ages.</li> <li>2. The carvings depict foliage, flowers &amp; berries, also humans, animals, birds, beasts &amp; Green Men.</li> <li>3. Together it is considered to be a description of how we are with the natural world and how it is with us.</li> <li>4. Green Man dates from pre-Christian times and is a symbol of creative fertility in nature; other names May King (Man-in-the-Oak) or (Jack-in-the-Green).</li> <li>5. In Christian imagery it is a symbol for Easter and the Resurrection.</li> </ol>
49	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Amazing Child</u>: Sculpture by Rory Geoghegan, stands on a plinth designed by Daphne Jowit.</li> <li>2. The Celtic Knot design in the plinth echoes the symbol of connectedness at the base of the altar.</li> </ol>
50	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Christ the Teacher</u>: Carving by Thomas Preator given to the chapel by Bp. George Carey (Bp. 1987-1990), went on to be Archbishop of Canterbury.</li> </ol>