

'St Nicholas Hospital, Harbledown'

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183 Euston Road
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T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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ST. NICHOLAS HOSPITAL, HARbledown, NEAR CANTERBURY

'16/'17

St Nicholas Hospital
Harbledown
N. Canterbury

July 14 1919

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 11th asking for information as to the use of this hospital for lepers and the probable date when last used for same. I am sorry not to be able to give you any information which one can claim to be accurate as there seems to have been no records kept. The nearest I can give you is that the highest number of lepers here at any one time was 32. There is a flat stone in the Church under which is buried one Lennard Lovelace 1671. He is believed to be the last man who ministered to the lepers. In the absence of any real proofs, this is the best information I can give you. I am however hoping to have something more reliable when times are better. Should any thing of interest be brought to light I will send it on to you

With kind regards, from

Yours faithfully, A. Webb

Sub. Prior

6. J. d. Thompson Esq
54^a Wigmore Street
London. W. 1

H.M.M.

11 July 1917.

Dear Sir,

I am glad to know you are interested in the particulars I sent you. Would you kindly give me the following information? When was the Hospital of St. Nicholas last used for lepers, and is there any record in the registers or otherwise of how many lives in the hospital from the year 1084 when it was opened by Lanfranc until the time it was closed as a hospital for those suffering from leprosy.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

A. Wehh Esq.,
St. Nicholas Hospital,
Harbledown,
Nr. Canterbury.

St Nicholas Hospital
Harbledown
N^o Canterbury

July 7th 1917

C. J. S. Thompson Esq.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you very much for your letter of the 4th inst in which you kindly mention the result of your enquiries as to the fresco's on either side of the East Window in this old Church, which has often caused a deal of comment as to who the figures really mean. I have now something more satisfactory to speak upon. I am pleased to note the models taken are going on alright.

with very kind regards

Yours Sir

Yours faithfully

A. Webb

Sub-Prior

H.M.M.

3 July 1917.

Dear Sir,

I have been trying to identify for you if possible the frescoes on each side of the east window that I saw when I was last at St. Nicholas Hospital. It appears from Hasted's "History of Kent" that the church was built a century or two before the hospital was founded by Lanfranc in 1084. Therefore St. Nicholas was not necessarily associated with with the lepers. On the other hand, the figure on the right of the window (which is evidently a female) with the large pitcher on the ground by her side seems to be very probably St. Elisabeth of Hungary, who at that time was much revered for bringing succour and relief to those afflicted with leprosy. She appears to be carrying something like a basket or box in her left hand, and the pitcher is always associated with her. Therefore I think you may say with a fair amount of certainty that the figure on the right is probably that of St. Elisabeth.

The figure on the left is most probably that of St. Nicholas who was a bishop. These seemt to me the most probable descriptions of the frescoes.

I have not yet received the models of the lepers' alms box

and bowl, etc. from the modeller, but he tells me they are going on very well, and he hopes to make them exactly like the originals.

With many thanks to you for the trouble you have taken on our behalf,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

A. Webb Esq.,
Sub-Prior,
St. Nicholas Hospital,
Harbledown,
Nr. Canterbury.

St. Nicholas Hospital
Harbledown

No 2 Canterbury June 19/17

Dear Sir

Your letter to hand this morning
the day. (Thursday) and time (11.30) will be
quite convenient for me to meet your
representative. I will be on look for him
You will perhaps remember when you were
here we were looking at some frescoes on
the sides of the East Window. You said you
would try and find out who they really
were. It would be most interesting if
you could tell me. Perhaps you could
send word by your representative on
Thursday. I am Sir

Yours faithfully
A. Webb

C. J. S. Thompson Esq
54 A Wigmore Street
Cavendish Square
London. W. 1

Sub: Prior

S^t Elizabeth

Germany



H.M.M.

18 June 1917.

Dear Sir,

Referring to the permission you kindly obtained for our modeller to examine the lepers' alms-box in the hospital, concerning which you wrote me on March 10th last, will you kindly let me know if it will be convenient for you to get it out for him to look at and measure on Thursday morning next at 11.30. I am trying to arrange for him to come to Canterbury on that date, and if the time is all right for you, kindly let me know by return of post, so that I can give him directions.

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

A. Webb Esq.,
St. Nicholas Hospital,
Harbledown,
Near Canterbury.

H.M.M.

10 March 1917.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your letter of the 9th inst. informing me that you have obtained permission for our modeller to examine the Leper alms box in the hospital. I saw him yesterday. and told him about it, and he said it would be necessary for him to see and measure it before undertaking the work. He is very busy just now, but I will arrange for him to come down to Canterbury at the first opportunity, and will advise you two or three days before he comes, and fix a definite time for his call.

With many thanks for the trouble you have taken in getting the permission, and for your courtesy to me when I visited the interesting hospital,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

A. Webb Esq.,
St. Nicholas Hospital,
Harbledown,
Nr. Canterbury.

St Nicholas Hospital
Harbledown

N. Canterbury

March 9th 1914

C. J. Thompson Esq.

Dear Sir

I have made enquiries as to your having permission to take measurements of the old Leper Alms Box in this Hospital I have obtained permission for you to do so and now have the key in my keeping so shall be able to allow you the privilege asked for. You will let me know the day when you will be coming or sending so that I can be at home, with kind regards

I am

Yours respectfully

A. Nett

Sub-Prior

H.M.M.

22 February 1917.

Dear Sir,

Since writing to you I find that Monday will suit me better than Tuesday to come to Canterbury, and I hope to call upon you as arranged between eleven and twelve o'clock.

Trusting that will be equally convenient for you,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

Mr. A. Webb,
St. Nicholas Hospital,
Harbledown,
Near Canterbury.

POST CARD

The Address to be written on this side.



C.J.S. Thompson Esq.,

54a. Wigmore Street,

London, W.

St Nicholas Hospital

Harbledown

Canterbury

Feb 23. /14

Dear Sir

I am in receipt
of your letter. Monday
will be quite convenient
for me, in fact more so
than Tuesday.

Yours faithfully

A. Webb

Sub. prior

21 February 1917.

Dear Sir,

I hope to be in Canterbury on Tuesday next, and will call at the St. Nicholas Hospital between eleven and twelve o'clock.

Trusting that will be convenient for you,

Faithfully yours,

Mr. A. Webb,
Sub-Prior,
St. Nicholas Hospital,
Harbledown,
Near Canterbury.

St Nicholas Hospital
Harbledown

N. Canterbury

Feb 3rd 1917

C. J. S. Thomson Esq.

Dear Sir

I received your letter of Jan 31st and in reply I beg to state that the Lepor clinics of this Hospital are open for the inspection of visitors at all times and it is my duty as sub-prior to act as guide to visitors so I shall hope to have the pleasure of conducting you round the Hospital. The small fee of four pence is charged for this. If you can send me a Post Card giving the day and the probable time in the day when you will come I would make a special point of being at home

I am Sir

Yours faithfully

A. Webb

Sub. Prior

Monday
between 11
& twelve

ST DONSTANS VICARAGE

CANTERBURY

29th January 1917

Dear Sir ,

I should have answered your letter before.

All the relics that there are can be seen in the Frater Hall at the Hospital . The Sub prior , Mr Webb , is usually in attendance during the greater part of the day, and if he is not there some one else is deputed by him to shew visitors round. I will however hand him your letter. It is a very interesting place and worth a visit if you are in Canterbury . I am the Reader . There is no Vicar . The Bishop Walsh is Master.

I am

Yours truly

Chas. Manley

H.M.M. Official

23 January 1917.

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly let me know if among the Leper relics of the hospital of St. Nicholas, which I believe are preserved in your Church, there is a pair of clappers as used by the lepers. Although I have a photograph of the interesting relics in this Museum, I have never seen them, and as I hope to be in Canterbury soon, will you kindly let me know a convenient time for me to see them if I call.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

To the
Vicar of St. Nicholas Church,
Harbledown,
Canterbury.

W.H.M.M. Of.

Jan. 31. 1916.

Dear Sir,

I wrote to Mr. Manley with reference to the leper relics at the Hospital of Saint Nicholas as I should much like to see them. In reply he has kindly sent me your name and asked me to communicate with you. I hope to be in Canterbury about the middle of next month and should be glad to know if I called whether it would be possible for me to see the leper relics, in the early afternoon.

Faithfully yours,

The Sub prior,

Saint Nicholas Hospital,
Canterbury.

ST. NICHOLAS HOSPITAL, CANTERBURY.

• Yr. 1891

• Last night at 10:30 p.m.

• 10:30 p.m.

Canterbury

St. Nicholas Hospital