

# A history of Barts – Britain's oldest hospital

**Professor Charles Knight OBE**

Chief Executive and Consultant Cardiologist, St Bartholomew's Hospital



# 900 years of healthcare

- Foundation and independence
- Dissolution and refoundation
- William Harvey's Hospital
- Classical rebuilding
- The birth of medical science and education
- Rescue, renewal and rebuilding



# The Founder

- Rahere
- Cleric/Courtier/Minstrel/Jester
- Court of Henry I
- Fell ill in Rome and had a vision



Rahere the Jester.



## St Bartholomew

*"Know me truly to have chosen a place in the suburbs of London at Smoothfield, where in my name thou shalt found a church and hospital... Wherefore do thou boldly – neither at the cost of the building doubt thee not.*

*"Direct, Build and End this Work"*





## Foundation, 1123

- St Bartholomew's Priory and Hospital founded in 1123
- The hospital took about 10 years to build. It was outside the walls of the City of London:

*"That place [Smithfield] before its cleansing... was very foul and like a marsh, at almost all times abounded with filth and muddy water"*

- Rahere ran the hospital as Master for 20 years until his death c.1143



## An early patient – Book of Foundation, 1180

*“Thus, in the time of Rayer, there was a carpenter of Dunwich-by-the-Sea called Alfuin, professing himself to have been contracted and twisted in all his limbs, to have prayed to St. Bartholomew and received promise of help. Brought to London by a shipper, and received among the poor men of the Hospital, he gradually recovered; first using his hands in woman's work, such as the making of distaffs, then when other limbs strengthened, hewing timber with an axe, then squaring it with the chopping axe, until finally blessing God, he exercised his trade of carpentry within the church in presence of the congregation, and established himself a business in London”*

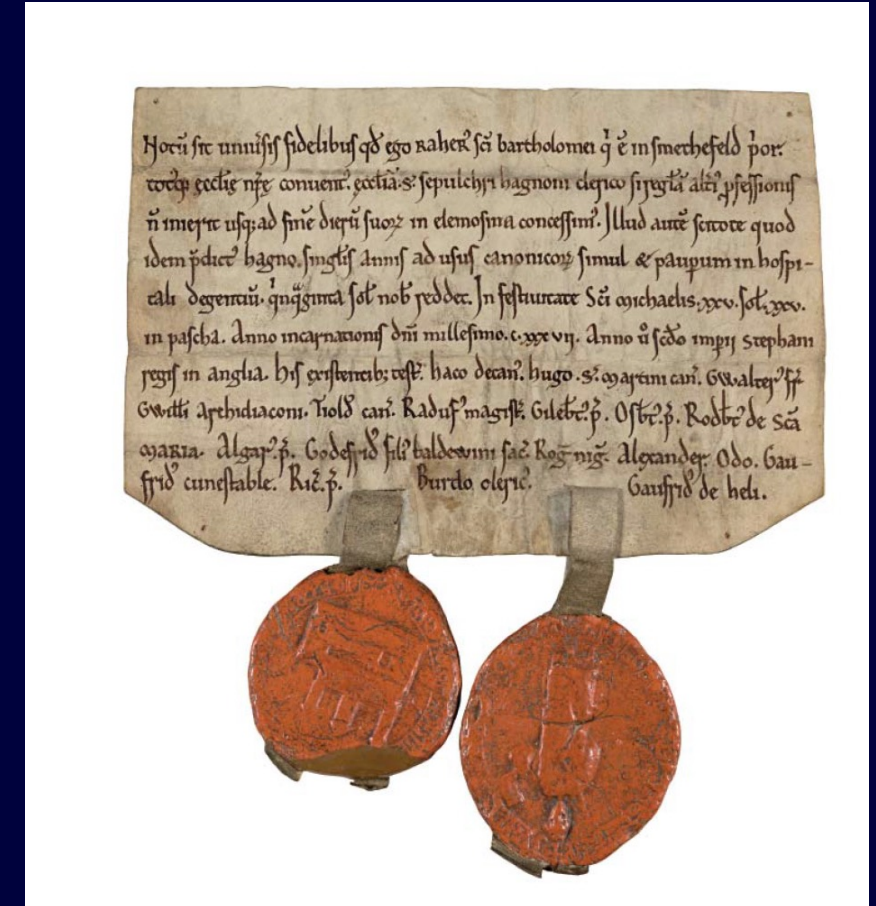






# Independence

- At Rahere's death the leadership of the hospital (Hagno the Clerk) and priory (Thomas of Osyth) was separated, but the hospital was under control of the priory
- Lengthy conflict over control of appointments and donations
  - 1182: Hospital petitions the Pope
  - 1223: Bishop of London, no bell tower but no veto
  - 1371: Bell tower, cemetery, seal and full self governance
  - 1453: Papal confirmation of independence - Master not Proctor



# Cok's Cartulary

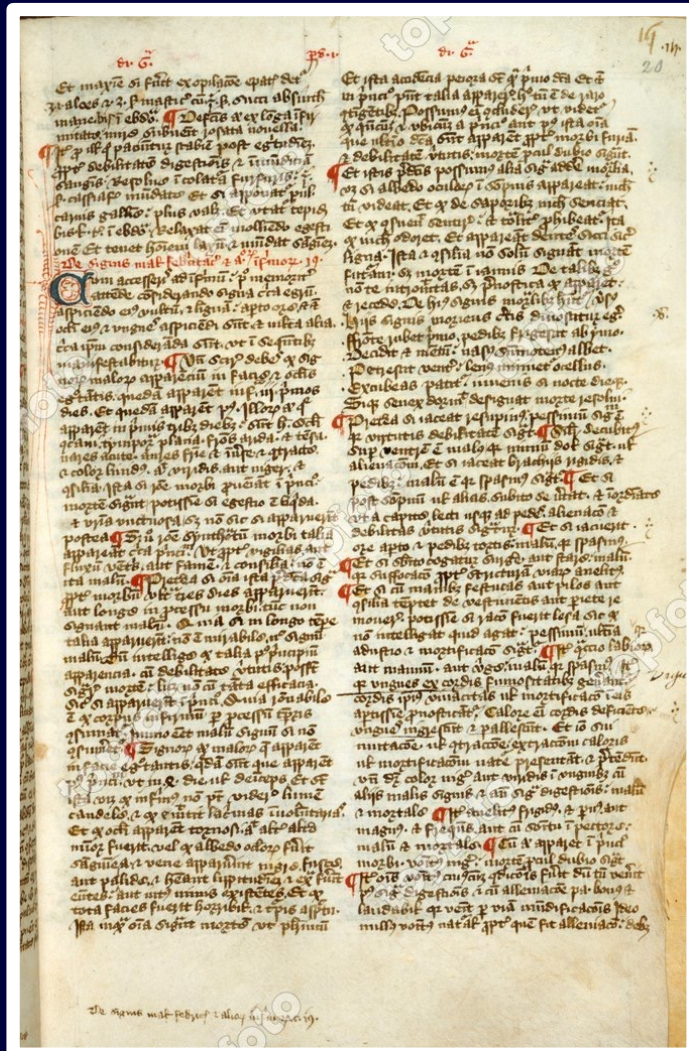
- Copies of all important documents gathered in the Cartulary
- For the first four centuries, the hospital was a religious institution; staff took vows for life
- Staff consisted of a master and eight brethren and sisters – the nursing title 'Sister' dates from religious hospitals of this time
- Income came from charitable donations, and the rent from property given to the hospital







# Johannes de Mirfeld (d 1407)



"Grind up henbane  
with the juice of mint,  
and spread it over the forehead.  
If the patient does not sleep,  
he will die".

Treatment listed in *The Breviary of Bartholomew*  
by Johanne de Mirfield, 1380-90s

Breviarium Bartholomei



## John Wakeryng: Master, 1423 – 1462

- Increased and better managed the hospital's properties
- Managed to obtain the 100s left by Dick Whittington from his executors for relief of the poor
- Spent on a new south gatehouse
- Secured water pipes from Islington
- Opened school in hospital precincts and attracted a number of highly educated tenants
- Coat of Arms





# Dissolution and re-foundation

- 1530s King Henry VIII dissolves the monasteries
- Only four hospitals in London - Barts, Thomas's, St Katherine and the Savoy Hospital. The latter became a brothel, prison and barracks and burnt down in late 17th Century
- Barts valued at £371 (third wealthiest)





# Re-foundation

- 1538: LM Sir Richard Gresham petitioned Henry VIII to ask that the City take over the running of London hospitals
- 1539: Priory closed, property seized
- Hospital allowed to remain open, but without income from its property - future is unclear
- 1540s: running short of bed sheets (used as shrouds)
- 1544: re-founded without funds
- 1546: Henry VIII re-endows with much of its property
- January 1547: New Charter
- 1547: Henry dies on 28 January



# The new administration

- Board of 12 Governors established (four Aldermen and eight CCs), with paid officials to carry out orders
- Governors appoint a matron, 12 sisters, 8 beadles and 3 surgeons care for 100 sick poor
- 1547: first record of surgery – bladder stone (10s to Martyn the surgeon)
- 1560s: first physician appointed
- 1600: £3000 p/a costs but owned 100,000 acres – one of the richest landowners in England
- Buildings repaired and advanced care given for the time



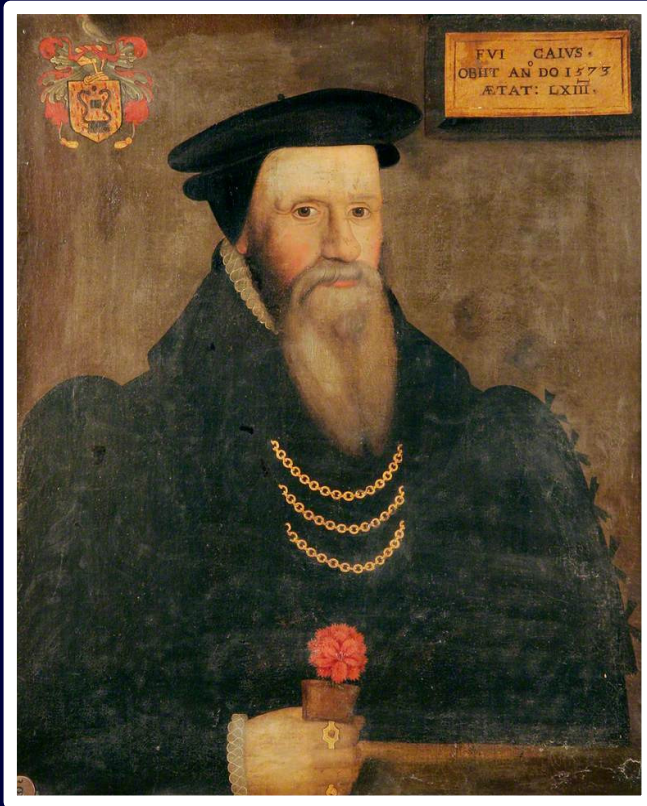


## Thomas Vicary (c.1490–1561)

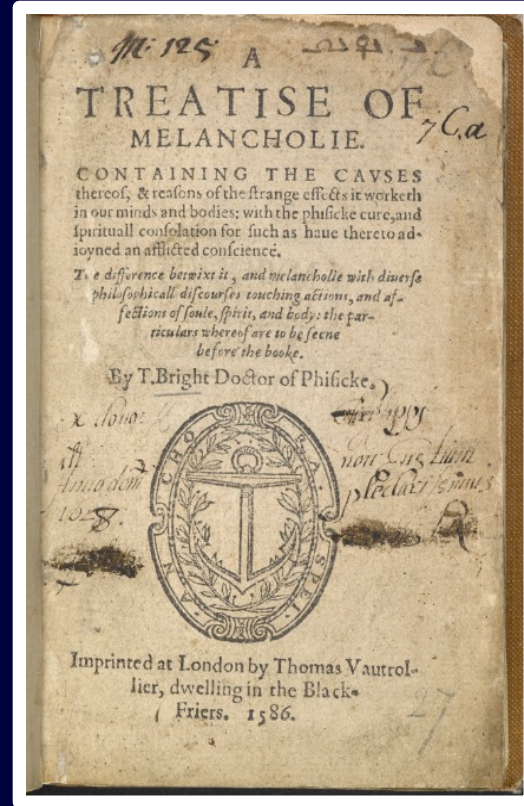
- The first superintendent of the hospital
- Serjeant-surgeon to Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth I







John Caius (1510-73) was a renowned physician who lectured at the hospital each week on surgical anatomy



Timothie Bright (1551–1615), the physician at Barts from 1584–91, wrote A Treatise on Melancholie in 1586, the first psychiatric text to be published in England



William Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, was physician to the hospital 1609 - 1643

## A consultation with Harvey

- In the Great Hall, once a week, Harvey sat enthroned in his purple cap and robes (aged 31)
- The “arthritic, the apoplectic, the paralysed, the pox-ridden, the jaundiced and the syphilitic” were brought up one by one by the sisters, sometimes on stretchers”
- Examination of pulse and urine
- Medical cases - instructed the attending apothecaries as to the prescription
- Surgical cases – call one of the surgeons and give him detailed orders as to how to proceed









# Harvey's Rules: Extract from the Minutes of the Governors of St Bartholomew's Hospital, 15 October 1633

## Patients

- Only curable patients, limited length of stay
- Discharged if refuse to take their medication

*"That none lurke here for reliefe only or for slight causes"*

*"That all such as are certified by the doctor uncurable & scandalous or infeccous shal be putt out of the said howse, or to be sent to an out-howse"*

## Surgeons

- Should not admit patients they do not want to treat
- Must: confer with the Physician on difficult cases; not operate with out the Physician's approval; not give drugs without the Physician's approval; supervise their apprentices; attend the weekly consultation with the Physician (with the apothecaries, matron and sisters)
- The apothecary should keep the content of all prescriptions confidential and share them only with the Physician

- Approx. 400 patients recovered per year
- Despite/because of treatment, because of nursing and food

“Always let blood in cases of great distress until the patient faints”

- When an inmate was deemed well enough to be discharged he was presented, kneeling, to the Physician in the Great Hall in front of the throne and waited for Harvey to pronounce him cured
- The inmate then gave praise to God and the hospital's staff
- Given money, clothes and a passport



# Rebuilding 1730-1768

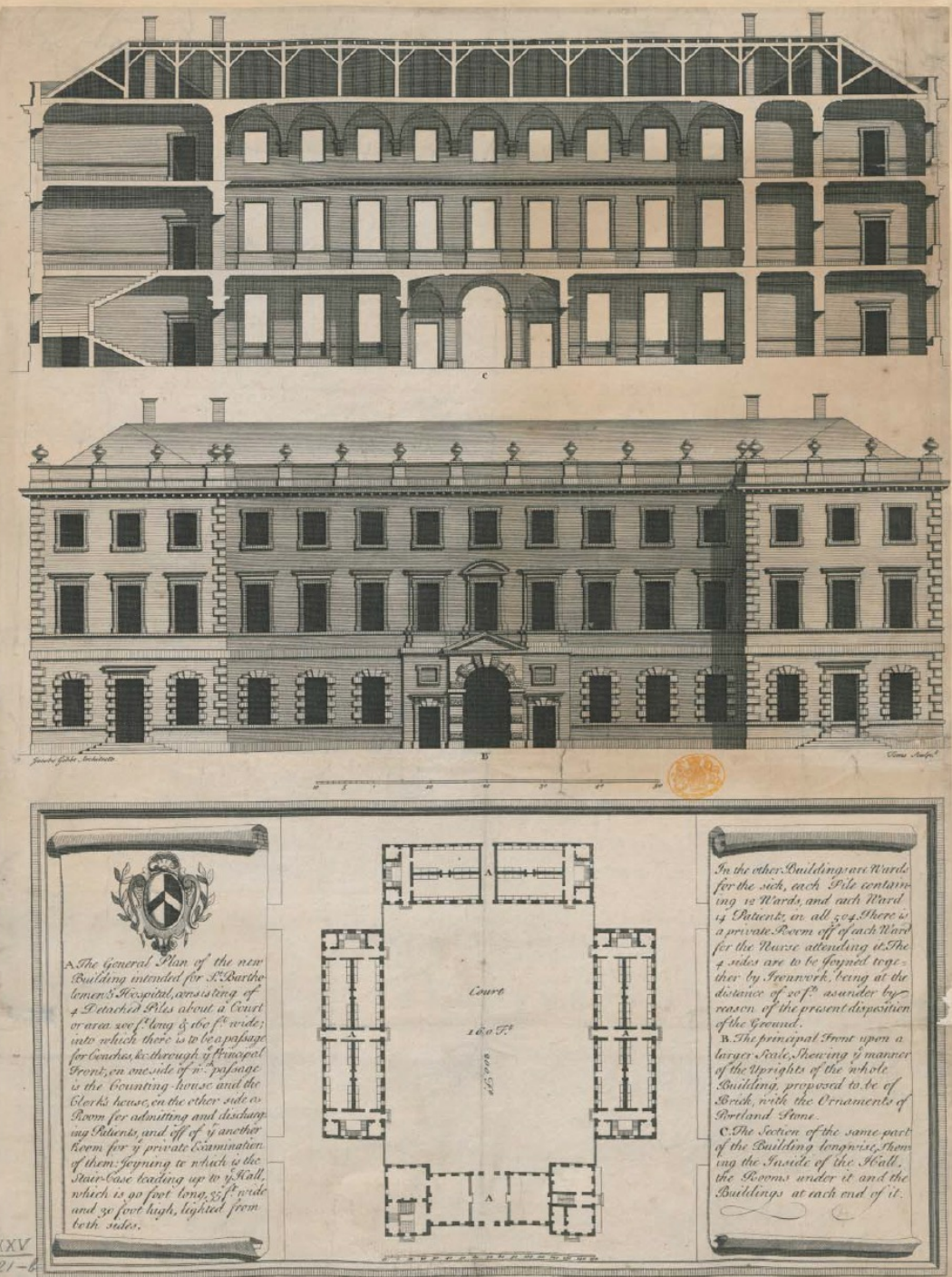
- New gate from Smithfield built 1702: the King Henry VIII gateway
- Prior to rebuilding: grassed courtyards typical of medieval hospitals
- Architect James Gibbs selected to design a new hospital to replace the outdated and dilapidated medieval buildings appointed governor in 1723



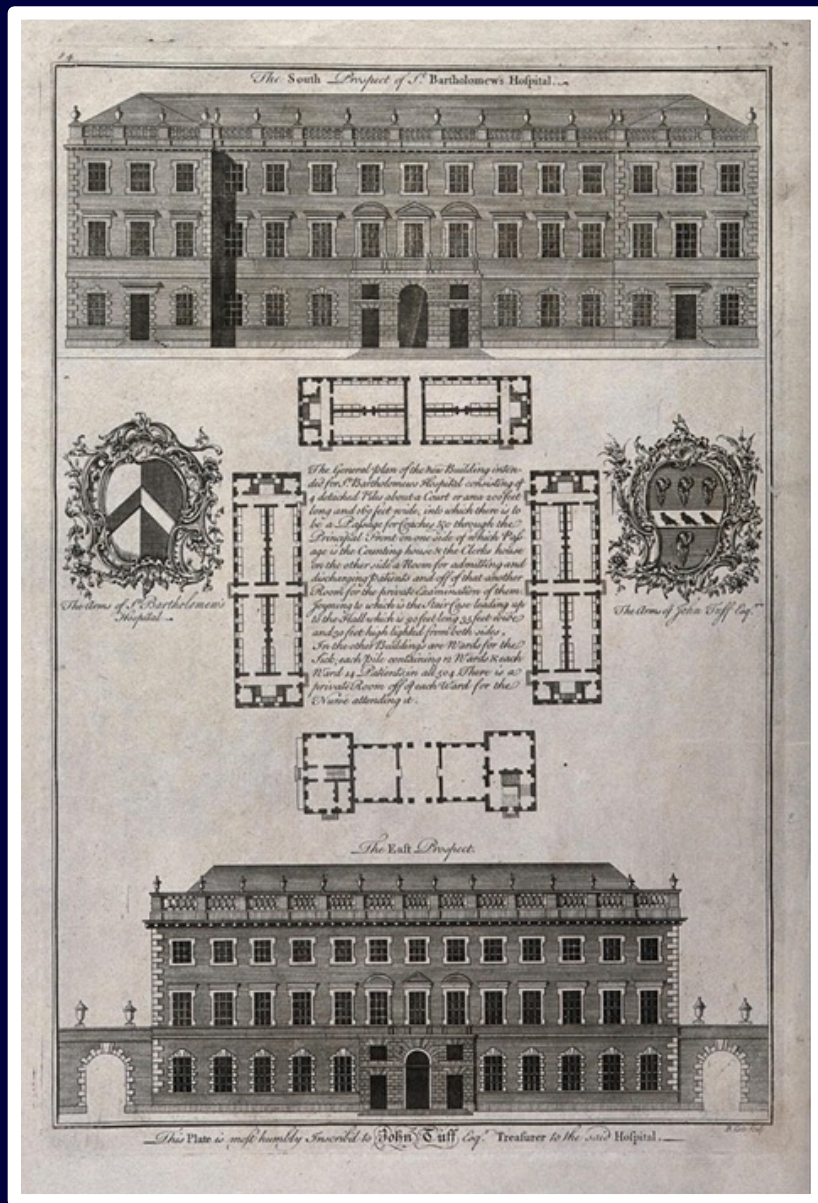


# Rebuilding 1730-1768

- North Wing (administrative block) first to be rebuilt, completed 1738
- Ward blocks on the South, East and West sides of the square

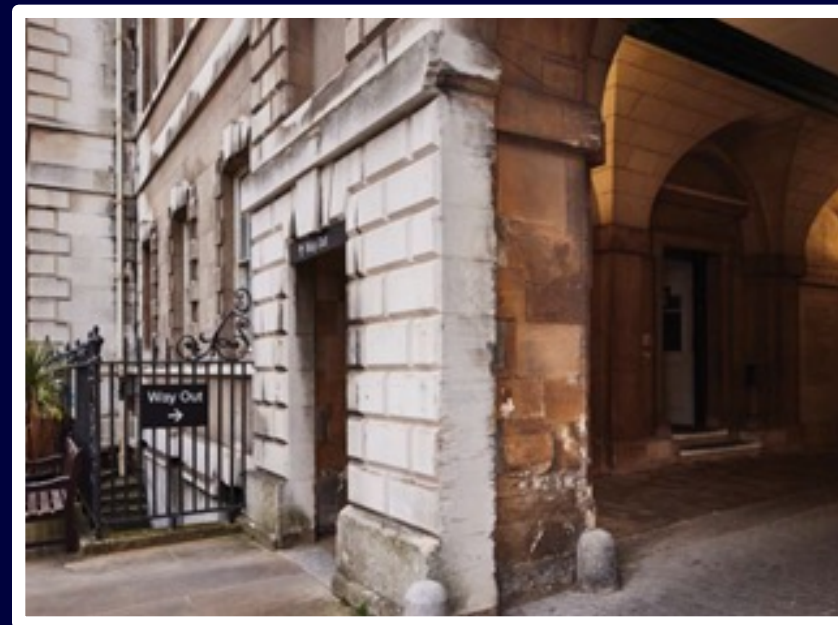






## Rebuilding 1730-1768

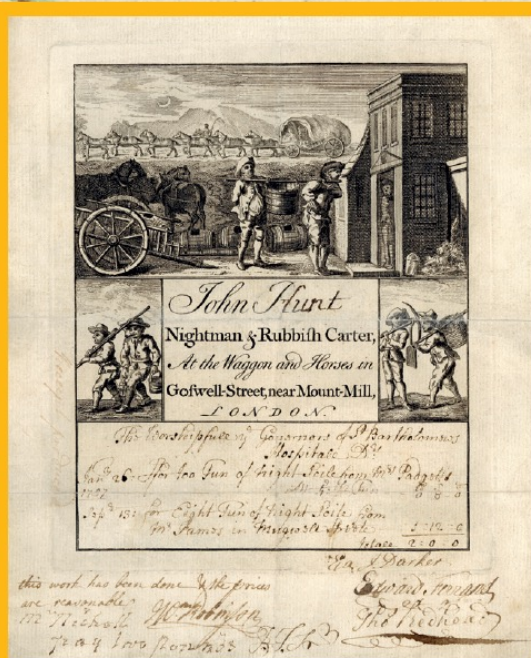
- East Wing delayed by Treasurer John Tuff - went bankrupt and absconded to France with £4,064 of hospital funds
- Bath Stone crumbled in London air, replaced by Portland











From Goswell Street, John Hunt ran his business as a 'nightman and rubbish carter', emptying Barts cesspits. Hunt's bill, held in the archives, has a handwritten note stating that the Hospital Treasurer found his prices 'reasonable'.

Bill for the removal of 'nightsoil', 1700s



Around the corner, the Hospital gates were the sales point for 'King of the quacks' William Salmon. A brilliant self-publicist, Salmon sold an 'elixir of life' and 'anti-nymphomaniac lemonade' to patients and passers-by.

A quack doctor selling medicine, 1795  
Wellcome Collection





### Smithfield workers

Barbara Adams worked for over a decade as Barts first barber. She earned 27 pounds and 18 shillings a year 'shaving patients by order of the surgeons'. In 1761 Barbara lost her job and her rented home next door when she was fired for 'improper conduct on diverse occasions'.

Female barber, 1780s  
Wellcome Collection



### Mary & Ann Hogarth

*from the old Frock shop the corner of the Long Walk facing the Cloysters. Removed to y<sup>e</sup> King's Arms joining to y<sup>e</sup> Little Brittain-gate, near Long Walk. Sells y<sup>e</sup> best & most Fashionable Ready Made Frocks, suits of Fustian, Ticken & Holland, strip Dimity & Flanel, Waistcoats, blue & canvas Frocks & blue coat Boys Drö. Likewise Fustians, Tickers, Hollands, white strip Dimity, white & strip Flanel in y<sup>e</sup> piece, by Wholesale or Retail, at Reasonable Rates.*

Sisters Mary and Ann Hogarth ran a dress-making business on Long Walk, facing the hospital cloisters. The Hogarth family were baptised in St Bartholomew the Great and Mary and Ann's enterprising older brother William designed the sisters' trade card.

The Old Frock Shop trade card, c1730







## Jonathan Strong (1765)

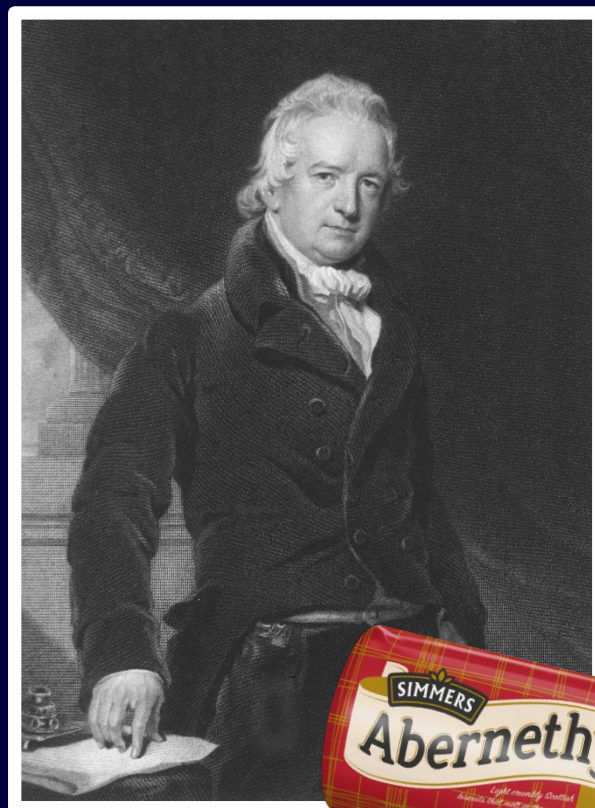
*"I could hardly walk, or see my way, where I was going, When I came to [Granville Sharp], and he saw me in that condition, the gentleman take charity of me... He sent me to [St Bartholomew's] hospital: and I was there four months and a half. All the while I was in the hospital the gentleman find me clothes, shoes and stockings, and when I come out, he paid for my lodgings, and a money to find myself some necessities"*

- Strong's case was the first of series of legal battles which ultimately proved that slavery was not legal in England

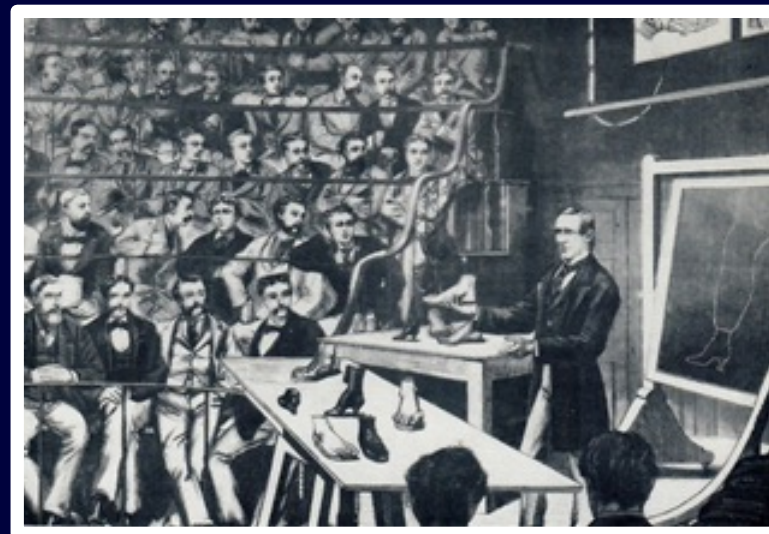




Percival Pott  
(1714-1788)



John Abernethy  
(1764-1831)

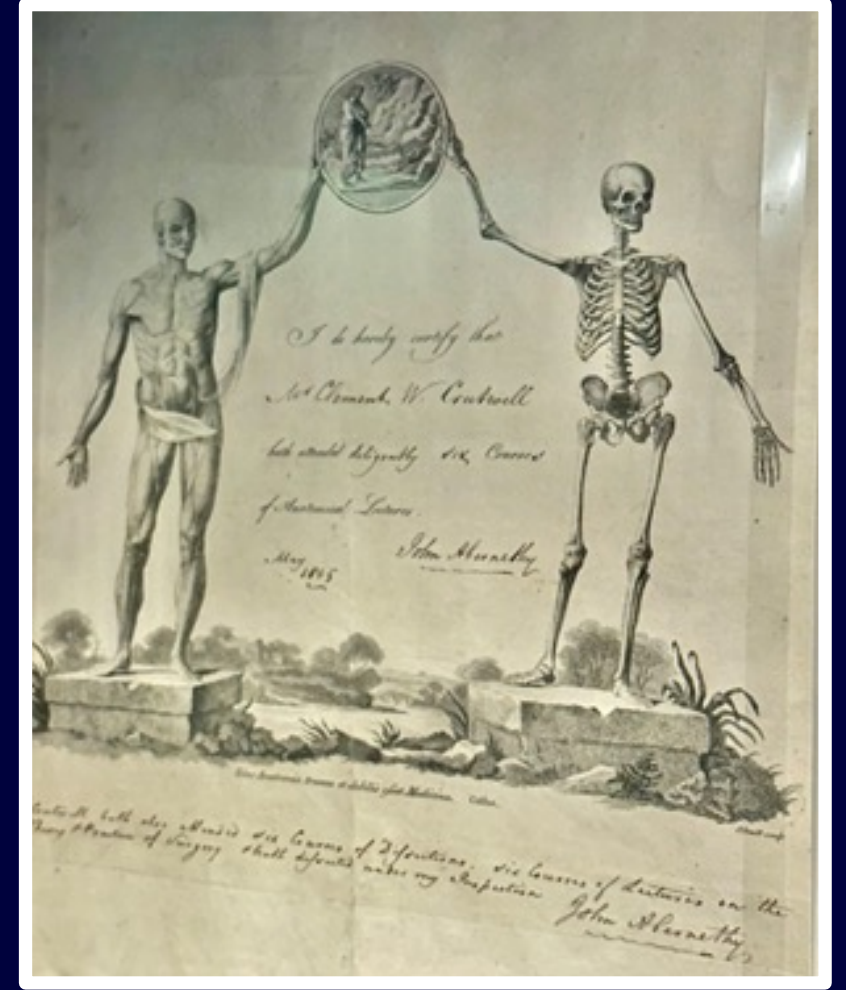
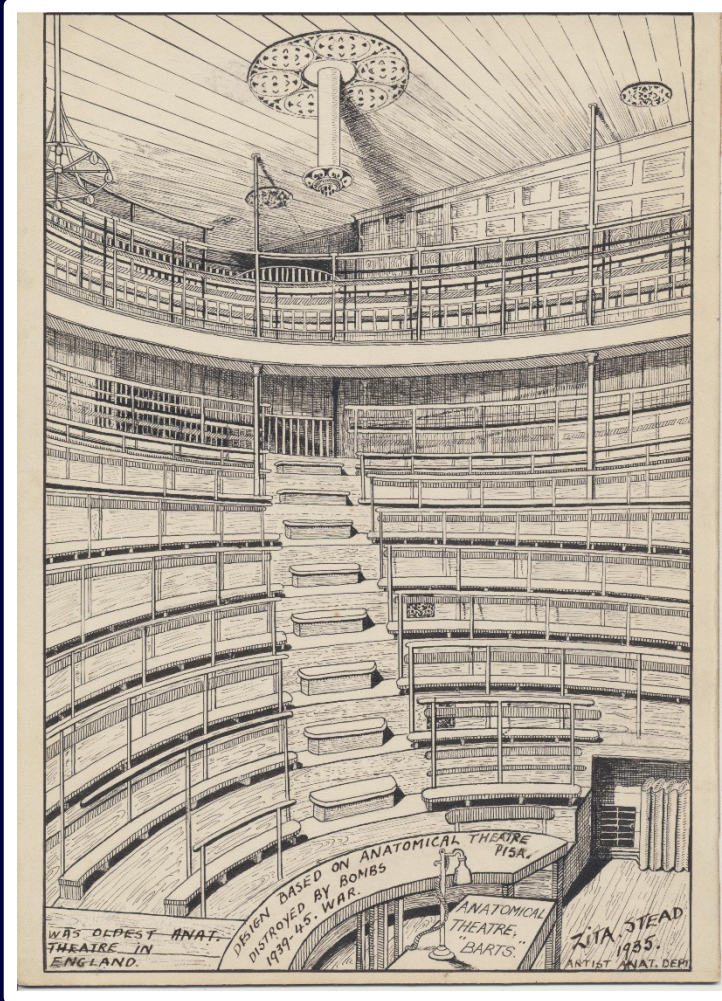


James Paget  
(1814-1899)

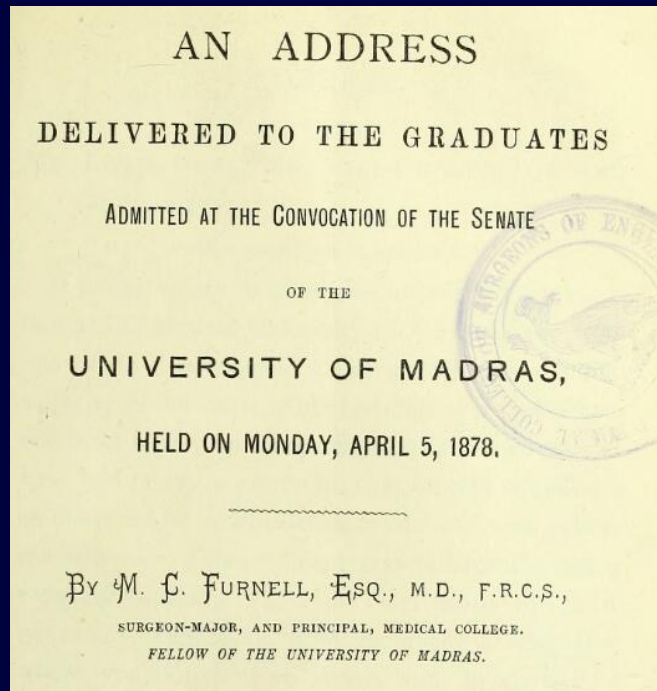


## Medical College established (1822)

- Students at Barts since at least 1662, and possibly earlier
- 1822 Abernethy persuades Hospital Governors to recognise the Medical School, gradually established during the late eighteenth century - soon the largest medical school in London







Michael Furnell



William Palmer



'The Doctor'

# St Bartholomew's Hospital School of Nursing founded 1877

- Early nurses were untrained, and responsible for cleaning and other manual work
- The first 'probationers', or student nurses, started in 1877
- Matrons Ethel Bedford Fenwick, 1881-1887 (SRN Number 1) and Isla Stewart, 1887-1910, campaigned tirelessly for state registration of nurses

Second Schedule.  
FORM 1 (a).  
THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.  
Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

Application for Registration for Existing Nurses for Admission to the General Part of the Register.

To the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

1. Full Christian name (s) *1. Ethel Gordon Fenwick*

2. Place and date of birth *Spynie House, 20 Elgin, Morayshire, N.B. 26 January 1858*

3. State how whether single, married or widow. If married or widow, give maiden name. *(3) Married Ethel Gordon Manson.*

4. Full Postal Address *(4) 20 Upper Wimpole St. London, W.1. Rt. from 27/9/19 12, Barton Road, Brompton, Westminster, S.W.1*

I hereby request the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to enter my name upon the General Part of the Register of Trained Nurses maintained by the Council.

I forward herewith the fee of One Guinea\*, and I promise, in the event of my being so registered, and in consideration thereof, to be bound by, and to conform in all respects to, the Rules and Regulations for the time being in force.

5. If no certificate is sent explain the reason. *(5) I forward herewith my Certificate of Training (and copy of the same) from Certificates were with forwarded to Paying Probationer at Birmingham & Manchester.*

The following are the places in which and dates of the times during which I was bona fide engaged as a nurse in attendance on the sick:—

PLACES	DATES			
	Month	Year	Month	Year
<i>The Children's Hospital, Nottingham, Paying Probationer.</i>	From	<i>Sept 1878</i>	to	<i>September 1878</i>
<i>Royal Infirmary, Manchester Paying Probationer</i>	From	<i>Sept 1878</i>	to	<i>Sept. 1879</i>
<i>London Hospital, E. Sister</i>	From	<i>Sept 1879</i>	to	<i>April 1881</i>
<i>St Bartholomew's Hospital, S.E. Matron &amp; Sister</i>	From	<i>May 1881</i>	to	<i>May 1887</i>

*Nurse 9*

## Isla Stewart, Barts League of Nurses founder

*"A nurse's position towards the world is that of a woman wishing for independence, willing by her own hands to obtain it and maintain it, and to have a profession . . . owing no man anything"*

- The Matron's Council, one of the earliest professional nursing bodies, was formed at Barts in 1894
- 1899 Barts meeting led to the foundation of the International Council of Nurses, the first international organisation for professional women







1830



1900

## c1800

- 96,300 leaches a year in 1819 from huge aquarium in dispensary at a cost of 7s/100

## c1900

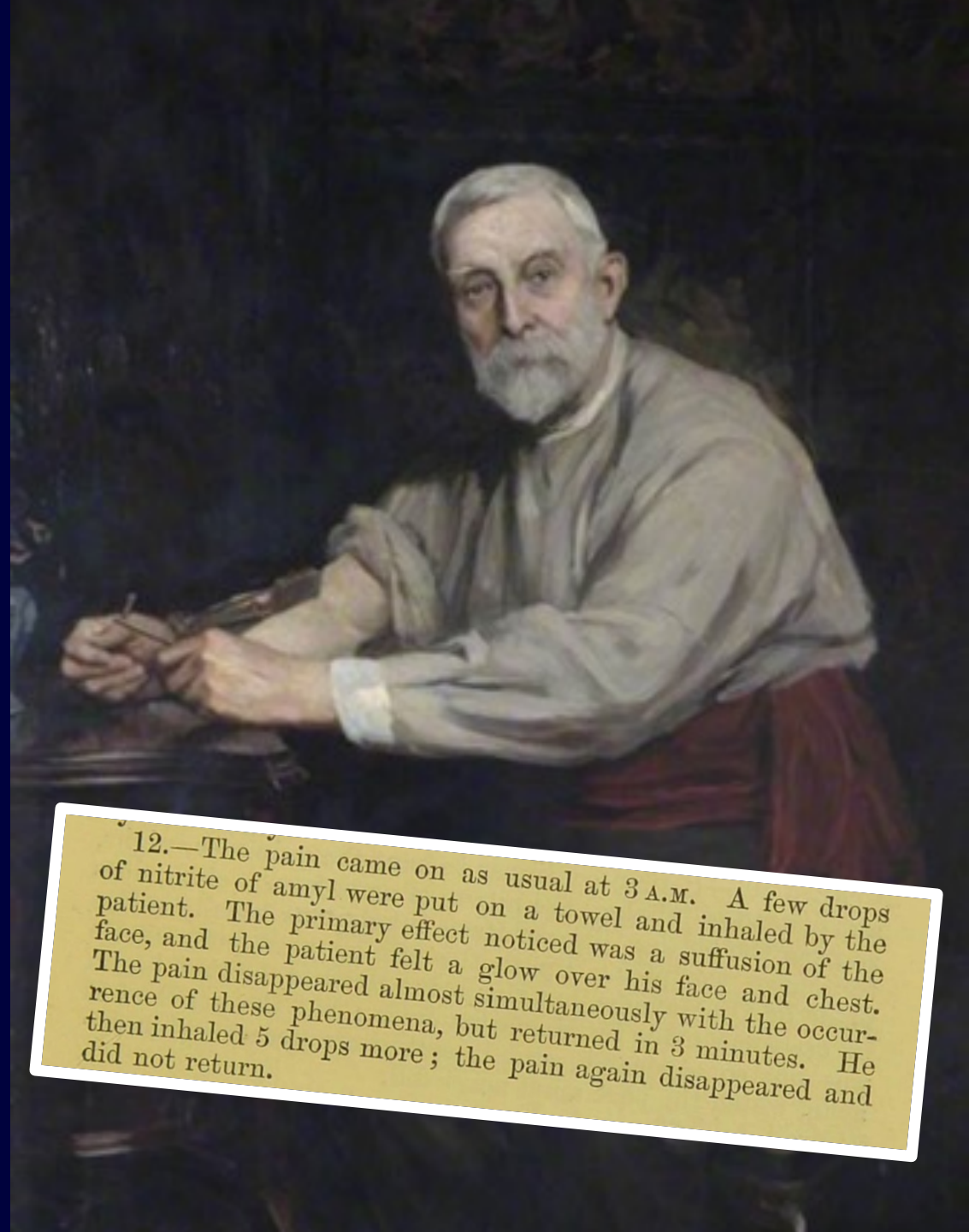
- 1863: 417 operations
- 1899: 2,446 operations; mortality halved; anaesthesia and asepsis; beginnings of specialisations such as ear nose and throat (ENT); gynaecology and ophthalmology
- 1872: 676 beds, 6,000 inpatients; 100,000+ outpatients
- 1910: 250 nurses





# Sir William Lauder Brunton (1844-1916)

- First to describe an effective treatment for angina whilst a house physician in 1870 – amyl nitrate
- Seventh choice after bleeding, brandy, ether, ammonia, digitalis, lobelia
- Physician at St Bartholomew's for 33 years



12.—The pain came on as usual at 3 A.M. A few drops of nitrite of amyl were put on a towel and inhaled by the patient. The primary effect noticed was a suffusion of the face, and the patient felt a glow over his face and chest. The pain disappeared almost simultaneously with the occurrence of these phenomena, but returned in 3 minutes. He then inhaled 5 drops more; the pain again disappeared and did not return.

## Into the 20<sup>th</sup> century

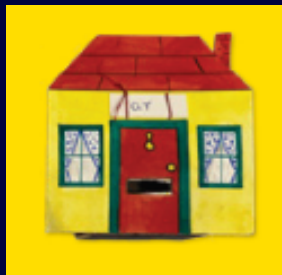
- 1900: senior doctors still unpaid generalists earning a living via teaching/private practice
- Ongoing specialisation: The system of 'firms' or medical/surgical teams was well established by 1900, each having their own wards
- 1930: five new theatres were created in a new surgical block (King George V), which replaced the original Gibbs' South block
- 1936: Barts became the first hospital in the country to offer mega-voltage radiotherapy for cancer patients
- 1980s: major specialities in cardiology, cardio-thoracic surgery, endocrinology, paediatric oncology and medical oncology



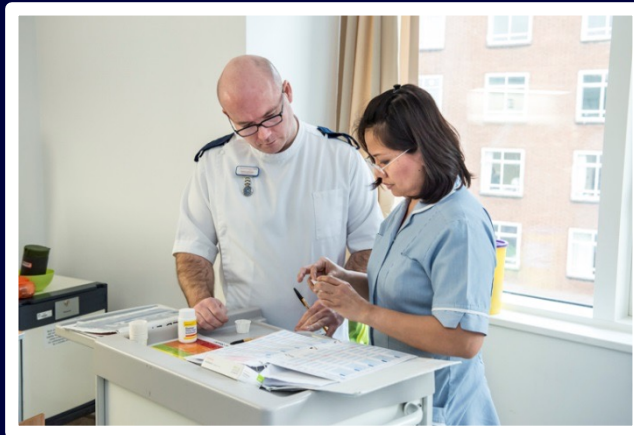


## Lucy May (Maisie) Holt (1900-2003)

- Medical psychologist at Barts c1949
- She initiated the first effective treatment for dyslexia (word-blindness)



- Nurses had to leave the profession on marriage until the 1950s
- First degree course nursing students start in 1968



## St. Bartholomew's Hospital

### RULES FOR NURSES

#### GENERAL RULES

1. All Nurses must be quiet, orderly, punctual, obedient, and behave with dignity.

2. Nurses must not absent themselves from breakfast or dinner without permission from the Matron or her Superintendents. If dinner is adjacent to off-duty time, a Nurse can be excused by putting her name in the book provided for the purpose.

3. All Nurses must go on duty from breakfast, and may not return to their rooms without permission from the Night Superintendent.

4. The use of candles, methylated spirit lamps or electric stoves (unless the latter are provided by the Governors) in the bedrooms is strictly forbidden.

5. Nurses on day duty must be in their rooms at 10-15 p.m., and the light out by 10-30 p.m.

6. Nurses on night duty must be in their rooms at 11-30 a.m. and in bed by 12 noon, except when a special pass is issued.

7. If a Nurse is ill, she must report or send a message to the Day or Night Superintendent at once.

Day Superintendent : 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

Night Superintendent : 9 p.m.-8 a.m.

The time to report minor ailments is 8-30 a.m., Day Superintendent.



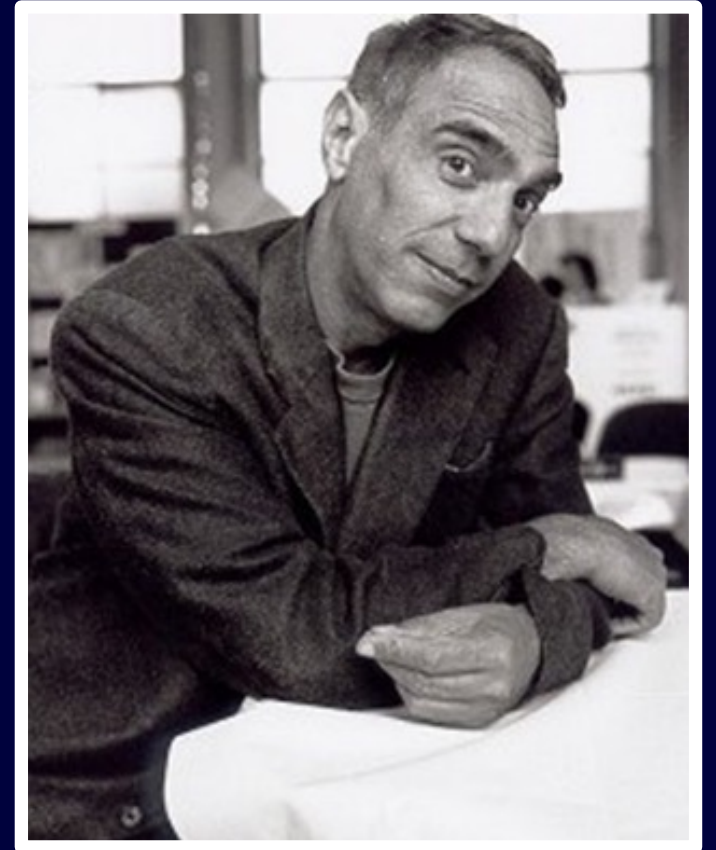
## 1948-1990s: From NHS to 'Save Barts'

- Creation of the NHS in 1948 saw the beginnings of a move from the hospital as primarily a charitable to a state institution
- In the 1974 NHS reorganisation Barts became the teaching hospital for City and Hackney Health District
- 1991-1995: publication of the Tomlinson report into the future of London's hospitals led to the Save Barts campaign



*"Sir: I have been here now for two weeks... I escape to the 18th-century courtyard and read in the pavilion to the sound of the fountain, before retiring to the hospital church of Saint Bartholomew, which itself is cool and filled with the peace of time... Without our past our future cannot be reflected, the past is our mirror. Every profession has a history and the medical profession's starts here... To shut Bart's would be a crime against the past and against the metropolis, which needs its great institutions and would be impoverished without them... Bart's is my second home and my life here is cherished."*

**DEREK JARMAN**  
**Colston Ward, St Bartholomew's Hospital**





Tuesday, February 3, 1998 Published at 17:51 GMT

**UK**

## **Bart's Hospital saved from closure**



Plans to close St Bartholomew's Hospital in London have been reversed following a review of hospital provision in the capital the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, has told MPs in the House of Commons.

"I will not countenance the closure of that great hospital which has faithfully served the people of London for 875 years," Mr Dobson said.



**Health Secretary Frank Dobson visits St Bartholomew's Hospital, 16 July 1998**

- Barts was saved, for now. But a threat to its future remained as we awaited approval of the £1bn private finance redevelopment
- After many revisions, the scheme survived, but this also presented an opportunity
- The works at Barts begin in 2010



*The Guardian, 6 February 2006*



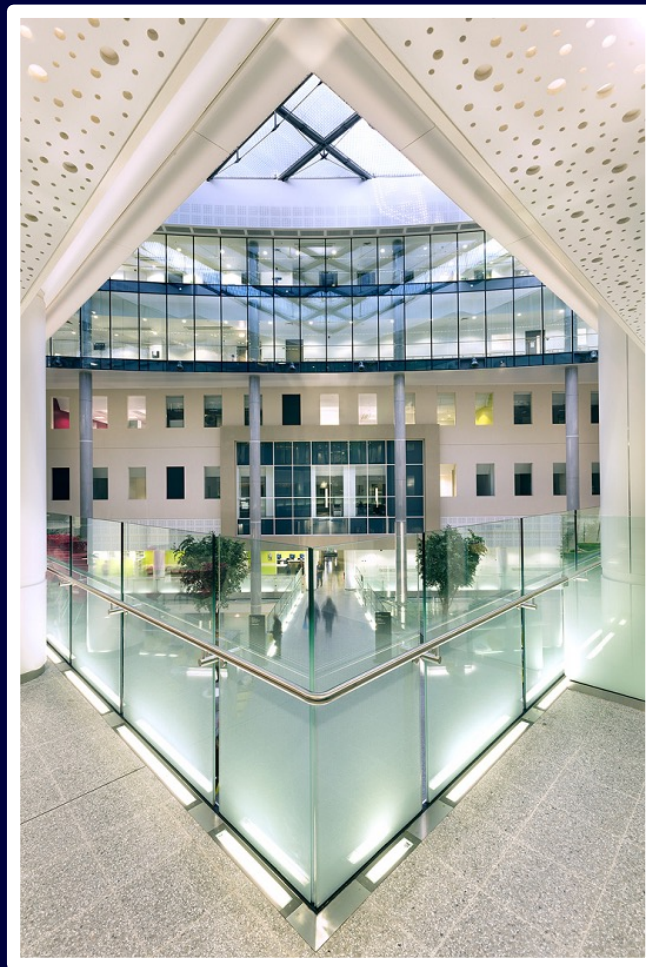






ST BARTHOLOMEW'S  
HOSPITAL











## Investments in our hospital in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

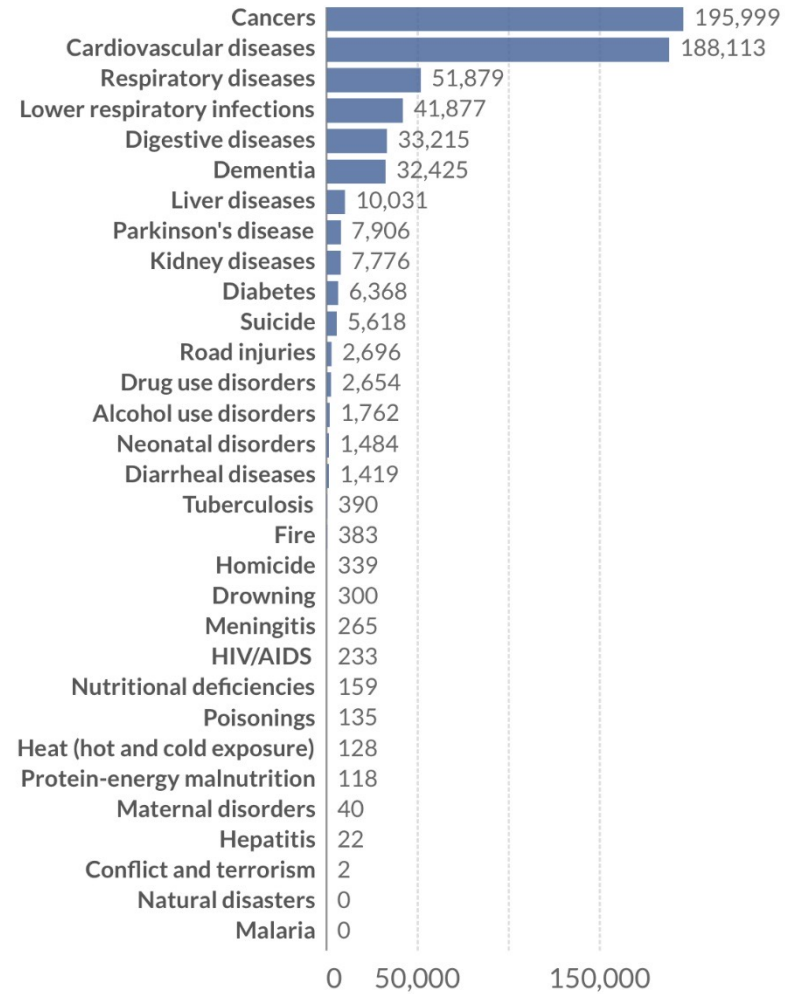
KGV building	£348m
Barts Heart Centre	£50m
Maggie's Barts	£5m
Nuffield Health at St Bartholomew's Hospital	£70m
North Wing restoration	£10m
Planned works	£20m
Total	~£500m
James Gibbs rebuild, 1700s	≈£5m (today's money)



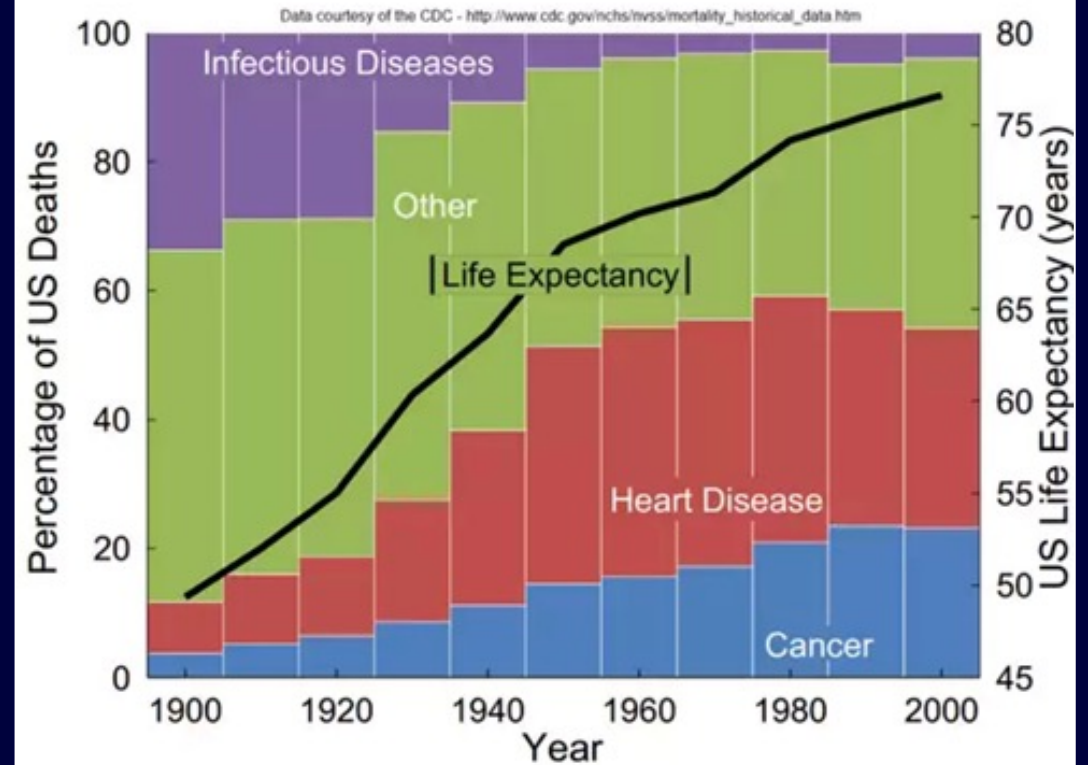
## Number of deaths by cause, United Kingdom, 2019

Our World  
in Data

[↔ Change country](#)



## US Deaths Over Time By Primary Cause





## Modern day St Bartholomew's

- UK's largest cardiac centre
- London's second largest cancer centre
- World-renowned Endocrinology and Respiratory departments
- Over 2,500 staff including 700 doctors
- More than 600 beds (55 for intensive care)
- 10 cath labs
- 10 theatres
- UK's largest echo and cardiac computerized tomography (CT) service
- World's largest cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) service
- Annual turnover of  $\approx$  £400m



# Barts Health NHS Trust

- Five hospitals across three boroughs and the City of London
- Serving 2.3 million residents and more than 14 million people for quaternary services
- The most diverse and deprived population in the country and growing
- Over 20,000 staff
- £1.4bn turnover





## Our research (cancer)

- World leading cancer research in key areas of drug/biomarker development and precision therapy.
- Breast, lung, haematology and urology cancer
- Recruit 750 patients to clinical trials every year
- £10m grant income in 2022
- World leading research in endocrinology/hypertension

Grant bodies	Journal or body	Lead/last author (5 years)
Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre	NEJM / LANCET	8
CRUK Major Cancer Centre	NATURE / NATURE MED	9
NIHR Biomedical Research Centre	FDA / EMA approval	7
RADNET Centre		



## Our research (cardiac)

- Grants: >£40m raised from major charities
- Top UK clinical research network recruiter to trials over the last 8 years
- Income: projected £5 million in ongoing studies
- Fellows: Host 15-20 fellows/year
- Papers: ~1000 published since 2020 in peer reviewed journals
- Impact : Our research has been incorporated into clinical guidelines issued by national and international committees; translated into clinical pathways which have won awards, including the HSJ 'Acute Sector Innovation of the Year'





## Our research (nursing and allied health professionals)

- Research fellowships: >40 pre-doc, doctoral and post-doc and secondments
- Publications: >150 papers and >100 abstracts
- Income generation: >£3m research opportunities and research grant
- Impact: clinical, organisational, academic; international reputation
- Awards: several nationally competitive awards



# Barts in Plague and Pandemic

- Black Death
- The Great Plague 1665
  - Introduction of social isolation; at its peak 7000 deaths reported per week
  - Three successive beaules and the Surgeon to the Hospital all succumbed
  - Zoning instituted - surgeons were appointed to look after "those with pestilence", while other surgeons were deputed to "be excused from special charge sheets of plague patients".
  - The latter group, unlike the former, were not offered a special reward by the governors at the end of the year
- Barts Physicians fled the City
- Care was given by apothecary Francis Bernard and matron Margaret Blague, assisted by 15 nurses "to the great peril of her life"
- Margaret Blague continued at Barts as matron until her death in 1675

*The Diseases and Casualties this Week.*

A Bortive	6	Kingevil	10
Aged	54	Lethargy	1
Apoplexie	1	Murthered at Stepney	1
Bedridden	1	Palie	2
Cancer	2	Plague	3880
Childbed	23	Plurisie	1
Chrifomes	15	Quinfie	6
Collick	1	Rickets	23
Consumption	174	Rifing of the Lights	19
Convulſion	88	Rupture	2
Droplie	40	Sciatica	1
Drowned 2, one at St. Kath.		Scowring	13
Tower, and one at Lambeth	2	Scurvy	1
Feaver	353	Sore legges	1
Fiftula	1	Spotted Feaver and Purples	190
Flox and Small-pox	10	Starved at Nurſe	1
Flux	2	Stillborn	8
Found dead in the Street at		Stone	2
St. Bartholomew the Leſſe	1	Stopping of the ſtomach	16
Frighted	1	Strangury	1
Gangrene	1	Suddenly	1
Gowt	1	Surfeit	87
Grief	1	Teeth	113
Griping in the Guts	74	Thruſh	3
Jaundies	3	Tiffick	6
Impoſthume	18	Ulcer	2
Infants	21	Vomiting	7
Kild by a fall down ſtairs at		Winde	8
St. Thomas Apoſtle	1	Wormes	18
Christned	Males 83 Females 83 In all 166	Buried	Males 2656 Females 2663 In all 5319
Increased in the Burials this Week		Plague	3880
Parishes clear of the Plague	34	Parishes Infected	96

*The Aſſize of Bread ſet forth by Order of the Lord Mayor and Couſt of Aldermen.*  
 A penny Wheaten Loaf to contain Nine Ounces and a half, and three half-penny White Loaves the like weight.



## Barts in Plague and Pandemic

### 19th Century – repeated influenza outbreaks often referred to as the ‘Russian pestilence’

- An observer in 1891 noted, arriving at St Bartholomew’s hospital in the morning, to find “more than 1,000 patients clamouring for treatment”.
- It was noted that “male patients were so alarmed that they took themselves to hospital immediately”

### Influenza Epidemic 1916-19

- Estimated death toll world-wide 50-100 million
- Barts Hospital Journal contains a single article on the plague ‘Use of intravenous sodium salicylate to treat Spanish influenza’
- Significant impact on Hospital staff, especially nurses
- Death of 2 distinguished new Consultants (Dr AE Stansfield and Mr Harry Blakeway) – memorial funds raised to support widows and children

St Bartholomew's Hospital

- East Wing
- Research & Clinical Wing
- King George V Building (entrance)
- Main Entrance
- North Wing (Clinical Unit)
- Patient Support Centre
- West Wing

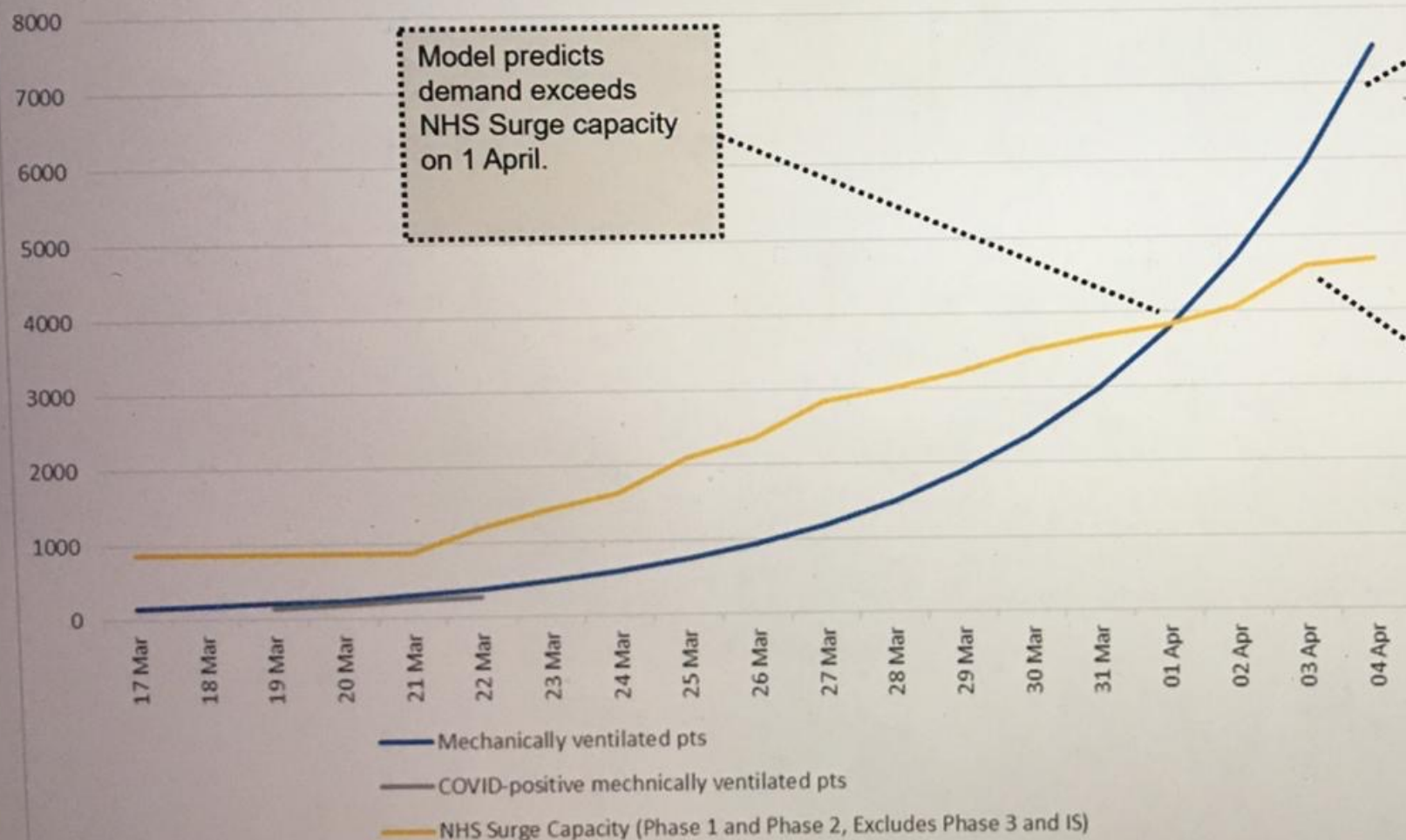
WELL  
EVERY  
THANKS





# Forecast capacity and demand

COVID-19 capacity versus demand growth (forecast and actual)





## Exclusive: Frantic action to stop London ‘running out of beds in four days’

- London’s critical care units are four days from full capacity, without urgent action
- HSJ* has learned details of a massive ramp up in intensive care beds being phased in over two weeks
- Seeking to quadruple ICU capacity in hospitals
- Excel conference centre in East London could be used as a “giant critical care barn”





# Nightingale Hospital

- A large-scale dedicated facility was required in London
- The facility was equipped in just nine days – a landmark achievement
- Opened on 3 April 2020
- Thanks to Londoners, the number of admissions remained low

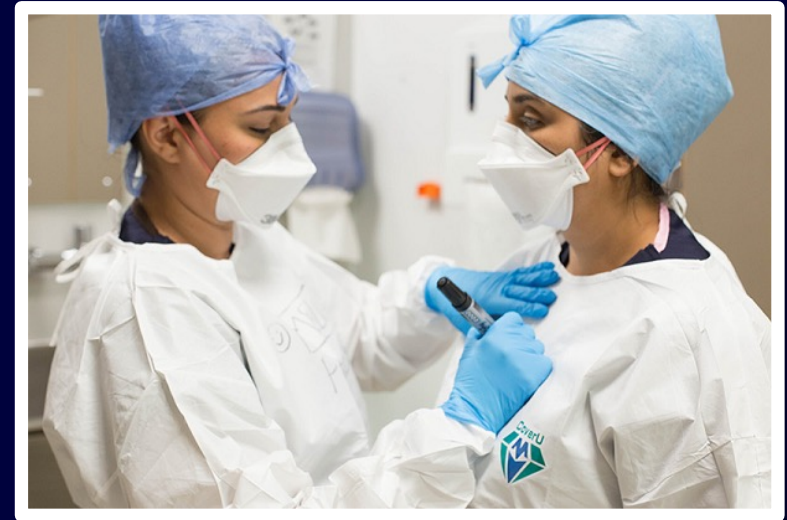




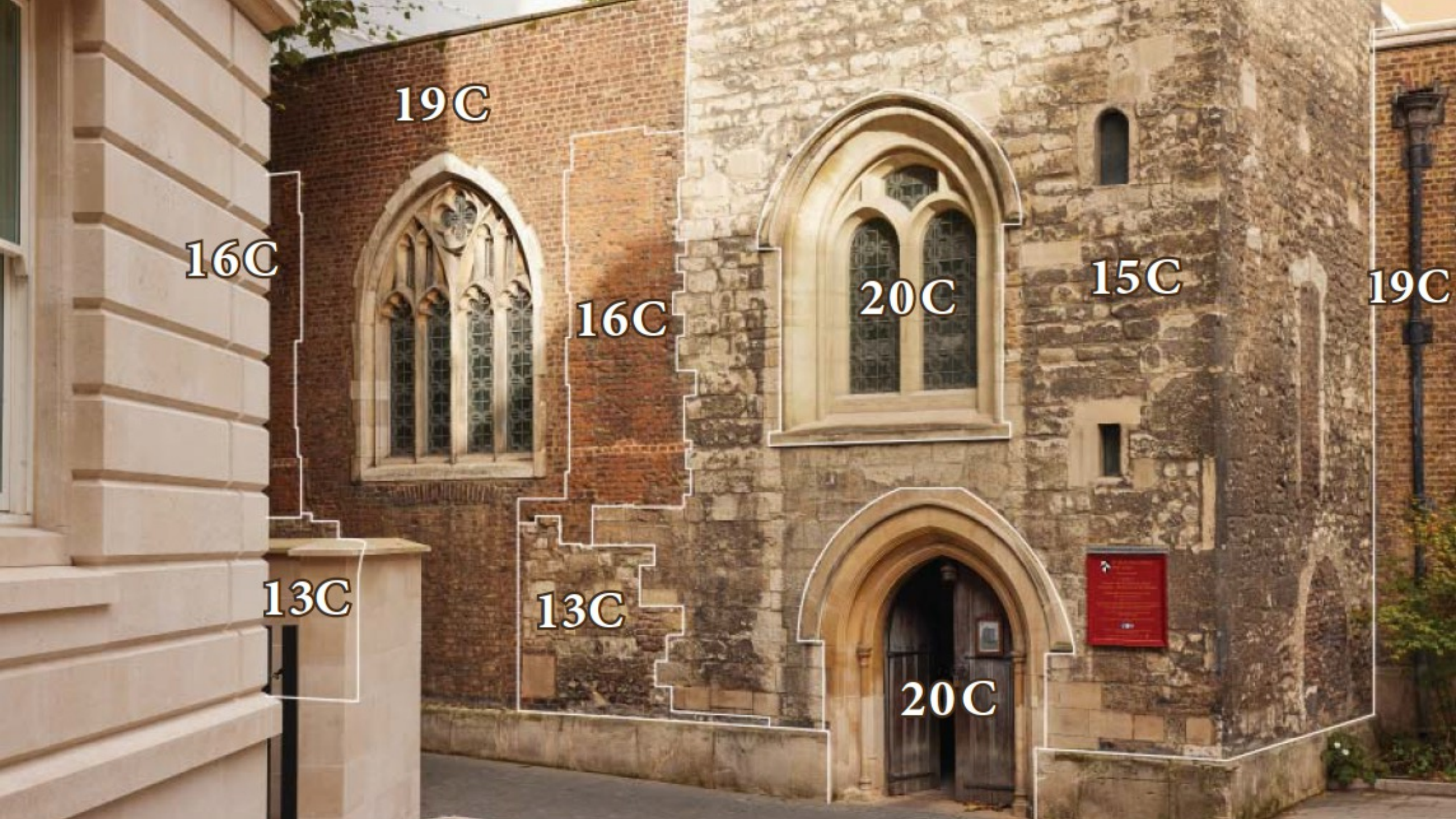


# Barts in Plague and Pandemic

- Early April 20 – 93 Covid admissions plus 13 to ICU to BH in a single day
- Hundreds of staff redeployed
- Nightingale – survival equivalent to the national achieved in >50 patients
- St Bartholomew's served as the Cardiac Surgery Hub for London: over 200 operations - no Covid
- Only two deaths from hospital acquired Covid
- St Bartholomew's doubled ICU (and ECMO) capacity
- 75% survival across Barts Health
- Peak of 621 beds in 4/20 and 835 in 1/21 – 223 in ICU
- Research studies initiated at pace







19C

16C

16C

20C

15C

19C

13C

13C

20C



**1886: Charles Ward, a 24-year-old gardener spent four months in Barts with severe dysentery**

*"there were a great many brought in as though they had been picked up off the street, or come from some very poor home indeed, & sorry were many when the time came for them to go back, after getting well & the kind treatment received from Doctors, Sisters & Nurses, & the good food they had to say nothing of the clean comfortable bed they had to rest upon'. He noted how some patients said 'they had never before received so much kindness'".*

**2021: A patient living with cystic fibrosis who developed Covid and received intensive care at Barts**

*"All the nurses were so compassionate, understanding, and most of all, honest. I felt completely safe, and knew they would do everything they can to keep me stable. Because of the nurses and doctors at St Bartholomew's, I didn't become a figure added to your screen under "deaths" but instead I became a more important number under "recovered"".*



# St Bartholomew's Hospital

- 900 years of healthcare free at the point of delivery
- Periods of greatness and decline
- Huge changes in medical care
- Huge advances in research
- ...Not so much in administration!

## Survived

- Dissolution of the monasteries
- Great fire of London
- First World War
- Second World War
- Attempted closure by NHS





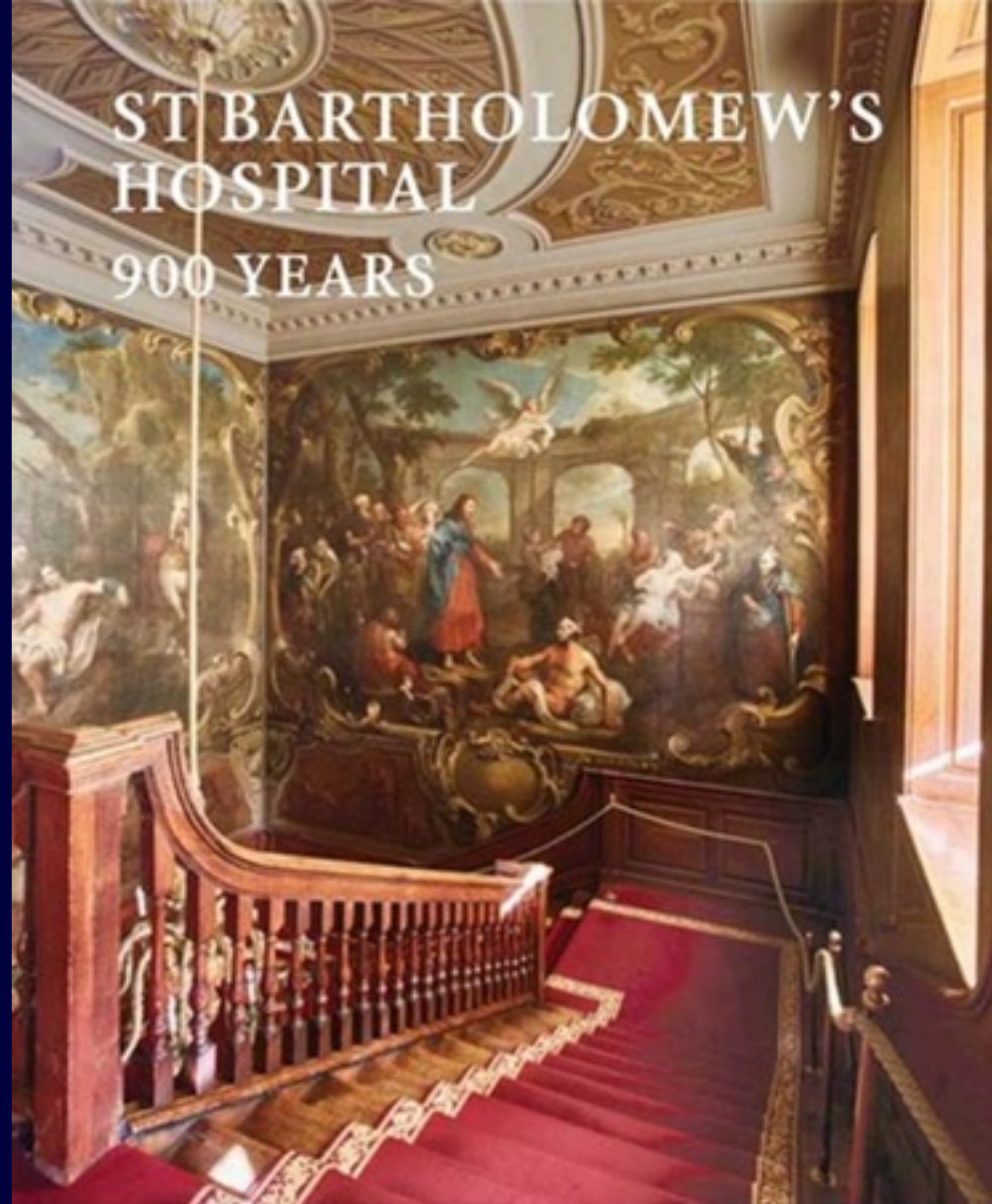
# St Bartholomew's Hospital in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- From despair to renewal
- Secured major investment and improved clinical and research outcomes
- Survival and expansion dependent upon strength of our partnerships
- Amazing future ahead but no room for complacency



**A new history published in May  
2023**

**Available from [bartsheritage.org.uk](http://bartsheritage.org.uk)**





## Life and death in the archives. St Bartholomew's Hospital 1123-2023

- Guildhall Yard Wednesday 10 May - Tuesday 6 June 2023
- Aldgate Square Wednesday 7 June - Wednesday 5 July 2023
- St Bartholomew's Hospital Square Thursday 6 July - Tuesday 1 August 2023

With thanks to:

- Kate Jarman
- Elizabeth Raidan
- Andrew Greasley



Best known on the internet for an entirely fictional event...

