Bertie visits Salsbury and sees the Magna Carta

On Friday I sneaked into Mother Jane’s pocket and travelled down to Salisbury. I had picked up that she was going to visit the cathedral and see the Magna Carta and didn’t want to miss out seeing the most significant document in English History..

We stayed overnight in a really nice hotel which served a comprehensive cheese board, so I was all set up for an exciting Saturday.

The morning dawned and Mother Jane discovered that there was no water coming out of the shower or the tap in the basin. Fortunately, there was water left in the kettle from making coffee the day before, so Mother Jane had what she called a cat’s lick wash, which I found very alarming!

The cathedral was very spectacular. In August 1668 the condition of the building was inspected at the request of bishop of the time by perhaps the best-known architect of all time Christopher Wren who considered it “the finest of its kind in Europe”. It has the tallest spire in England (404 feet high), wonderful widows including those by Burn Jones and William Morris and a beautiful Prisoners of Conscience Window reflecting a Christian response to worldwide violence and Justice. Near the back is a large Living Water Font which was installed in 2008 as part of the 750th anniversary celebrations. The water’s surface is still and smooth but at each of the four corners it flows through spouts into gratings in the floor. The inscription on the side reads “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you” Isaiah 43 v 1-2. Having declined the cat lick wash for obvious reasons I was tempted to practice my front crawl across its width, but we moved on quickly through the cloisters to the chapter house to view the Magna Carta one of only four original copies. This document put together over 800 years ago have had a huge impact not only for the rights and justice of people in this country btu across the world. There are 63 different articles set out freedom of the church, no taxation with our representation freedom of cities justice even a clause which says that widows don’t have to remarry if they don’t want to, but try as I might, I couldn’t find any reference to the rights of mice and their freedom to eat cheese.