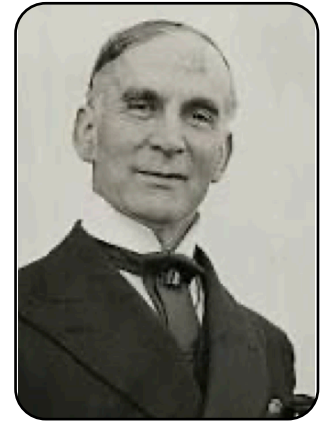


**Francis (Frank) Owen Salisbury
(1874-1962)
'Painter Laureate'**



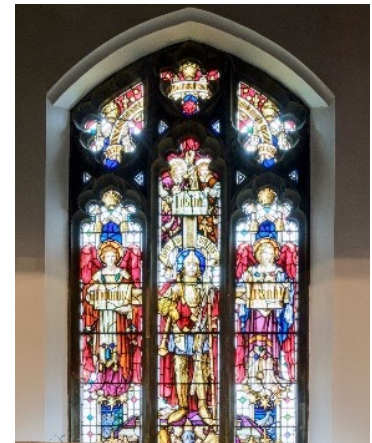
Frank was born in Harpenden in what is now "The Inn on the Green". He was an artist and stained glass designer, internationally eminent in his day and known as the "Painter Laureate". He is now almost forgotten. The trail has been developed to help Harpenden residents and visitors appreciate Frank's artistic contribution locally and



**St Christopher
Window detail**

nationally. His portraits included kings, US presidents, public figures such as Churchill and Field Marshal Montgomery, and business leaders including J.P. Morgan and John D Rockefeller. He painted national events (e.g. coronations, Burial of the Unknown Soldier) and imaginary historical scenes (such as the trial of Queen Katharine of Aragon).

He was one of twelve children and as he was a poorly child had little formal education. At the age of 16 he was



Memorial Window

apprenticed to his brother, James, who ran a stained glass workshop in St Albans. His brother realised he had a talent and helped send him to art school.

The trail starts in the north of Harpenden at "the Oval", once owned by the Methodist-founded National Children's Home, of which Frank was a great supporter. In the chapel we can see two beautiful stained glass windows: the St Christopher (patron saint of the NCH) window and the Memorial window dedicated to the 126 Old Boys of the NCH and Orphanage who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918. These can be seen by appointment.

Tel no. 01582 463300

There is a mural of the nativity in the Lady Chapel of St Nicholas' Church.

Frank painted it in



his home, Red Gables, and it was transferred to the church using the 3,000 year old marouflage technique. It is divided into three by 2 columns to give the effect of a triptych, measuring 6x10 ft. If closed, the church can be accessed by visiting the church office (10am - 2pm) through the back door.

Frank is buried in St Nicholas' graveyard alongside his infant daughter and his wife.





East Window

The Methodist church was a focal point in the life of the Salisbury family. There are two windows designed by Frank and executed by Hawes and Harris, another local firm. It is open from 10am-12noon Monday to Saturday and on Sunday for services.

The East window, the “Teaching Window”, is dedicated to his parents, while the West window is dedicated to Leslie Burgin, a local MP and Methodist lay preacher. These were made for the new church after its move from Leyton Road to a new larger church in the High Street.



West Window

Two windows were moved from the old chapel to the new church hall in 1930. They were created by James Salisbury, Frank's older brother. One, called “The Light of the World”, is based on the painting by Holman Hunt and is dedicated to his brother Frederick who died in his twenties. The other is entitled “The Good Shepherd”.

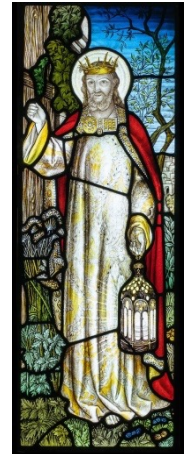


“The Light of the World”



“The Good Shepherd”

A small stained glass window also entitled “[The Light of the World](#)” may be by Frank or his brother James, and can be seen in the Salvation Army building on Leyton Green. This is usually open in the mornings.



Tel: 01582 469399

Across Leyton Road from the fountain is “The Inn on the Green”, Frank’s birthplace.

Frank is the toddler on the left.



2 pageant prints of paintings by Frank hang in the Council offices. These are signed by Frank and were presented to the Council by him.



“The Heart of the Empire. The Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary”



“The Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth”.

“The Lady in Red” also hangs in the Council Chamber. It is an oil painting of an actress called Lily.

These can be viewed on weekdays by appointment, by calling the office during working hours.
Tel no. 01582 768278.

Opposite Park Hall, formerly the British School, which Frank attended, stands the [Harpenden Village sign](#) designed by Frank. The original is in the Harpenden Local History Museum.

With his architect brother, Eustace, Frank designed Red Gables on Leyton Road where he lived until his 40th year before moving to Hampstead to be nearer his most important clients - especially the Royal Family.



Red Gables

Red Gables has a beautiful [stained glass window](#) made by Frank to demonstrate his work. Unfortunately, it is difficult to see from outside.



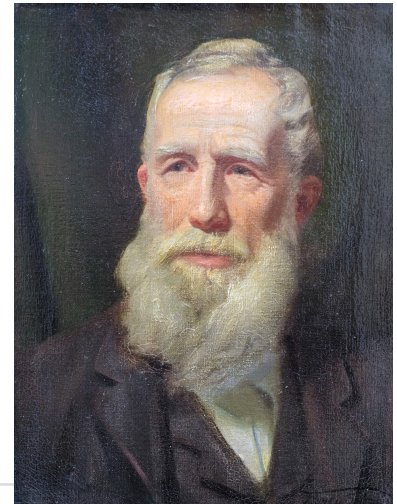
His initials and those of his wife, Alice Maude Greenwood, are carved on the [beautiful fireplace](#) in the reception room at Red Gables.

The house called “Little Gables”, just behind the Silver Cup, also designed by Frank and his brother, was the studio where much of Frank’s stained glass was created.

The Salisbury family had strong links to the Lawes family of Rothamsted Research. Frank painted several of the early founders including Sir John Lawes and Sir Henry Gilbert. They are held in the Manor House, but are not readily available to view.

[Sir John Bennet Lawes](#) founded an agricultural research institute which became Rothamsted Research.

More of his work can be seen at Verulam Golf Club in St Albans (Samuel Ryder, founder of the Ryder Cup and Mayor of St Albans), at the National Portrait Gallery e.g. Prince Edward (later Edward VIII) and Field Marshal Montgomery, at Wesley’s Chapel in Islington (4 stained glass windows), the Museum of Methodism, the Royal Exchange and even the White House!



[Sir John Bennet Lawes](#)



The Frank O Salisbury Trail

Acknowledgements

+ The Estate of Frank Owen Salisbury + Nigel McMurray (biographer) + Harpenden Methodist Church

+ The Sir John Lawes Trust + Harpenden and District Local History Society + The Arts Society + Harpenden Oval (YWAM)

