

## Original Documents.

### INVENTORIES OF THE CHURCH GOODS IN THE TOWN OF SHREWSBURY AT THE TIME OF THE REFORMATION, AND PROCEEDINGS RESPECTING THEM IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD VI. A.D. 1552-53.

COMMUNICATED BY JOSEPH HUNTER, ESQ., VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY  
OF ANTIQUARIES, AND ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS.

The Inventorie of the goodes, juels, and plate of the parishe cherch of Saynt Alkemundes of Salop, made the xxiiij.th day of August, anno domini mecccclij. et Edwardi VI. sexto, before Sir Addam Mitton, knyght, and the bailfes of the towne of Salop.

In primis, oon chalis with a paton parsell gylt. Item, iij. bels of oon accorde (and oon sawntz bell, *erased*). Item, a crosse of brasse, and a pix of copper, a senser of brasse and ij. candelstikes of brasse. Item, iij. corpace cases, and on pere of organs. Item, one cope of clothe of gold. Item, a cope and a vestment of purpull velwett (and gold together, *erased*). Item, on cope of blewe velwett (and one coope of tawny velwett, *erased*). Item, ij. coopes witylly colored of silke and golde. Item, iiij. coopes broken to make a carpett to the lordes table. Item, one vestment with ij. tunicles of blue velwett. Item, oon vestment with ij. tunicles of tawny velwett. Item, oon vestment with ij. tunicles of wite silke. Item, oon vestment with ij. tunicles reased with velwett. Item, iiij. (*viiij. erased*) vestmentes of sondrie colors. Item, ij. alter clothes and ij. towls.

Presented by Robert Helyn, Richard Jukes, cherkwardens, Edward Sherer, Humfrey Arosmyght, Robert Hobbys, and Thomas Add'ton, and George Crane, Clarke.

FORIET ORIEN.<sup>1</sup>—The Inventory indented of all the goodes, juelles, belles, and all other ornamentes belongynge to the paryshe of the crosse nere the towne of Salope, in the countye of Salope, taken by sir Wyllyam Hordeley, clerke, vycare there, Humfrey Butler, Thomas Lye, wardens of the said paryshe church, Richard Hatton, John Prynce, Thomas Ofeley, Thomas Fraunce, syxe of the honest men and inhabytantes of the said paryshe, and

<sup>1</sup> Possibly Foriet *oriens*, or *orientale parte*, the "Est Fored," as this parish is called in the indenture which is given hereafter. The parish church of Holy Cross had previously been the church of the Benedictine Abbey, situated in the suburb of Foregate on the east side of Shrewsbury. In the history of the foundation this

suburb, now known as the Abbey Foregate, is thus described. — "Vicus Biforietta vocatur, quod nos lingua Gallica, *ante portam* dicimus." Dugd. Mon. iii., p. 517. On the ancient seals still preserved in the parish chest, it is termed "Fforyate monachorum."

by the said vycar and vj. honest men, presented and delyvered the xvj. th daye of August in the syxte yere of the reigne of ower soverane lorde king Edward the syxte, by the grace of God Kynge of Englande, France and Irelande, defendour of the faythe, and of the church of Englande and also of Irelande in erthe the supreme hed.

In primis, a (chales, *erased*) chalyce with a patent parcell gylte, weyng xij. ownces. Item, a crosse of wood and covered with (sylver, *erased*) laten plate and gylte. Item, a pyxe of maslyn.<sup>2</sup> Item, a sensar of maslyn. Item, a payre of cruetes of pewter. Item, a cope of whyte damaske. Item, a vestymnt of grene satane abyrdges,<sup>3</sup> and an albe of the same. Item, a vestymnt of blewe sylke brothered with golde, and a albe. Item, a vestymnt of whyte fustyane with a albe. Item, a vestymnt of red sylke with a blewe crosse brothered with gold. Item, a vestymnt of whyte fustyane with a blake crosse of velvett. Item, iij. corporas cases of sylke with a halowed clothe for the same. Item, too alter clothes. Item, oone paxe of glasse. Item, iiij. ringinge belles, with a bell whiche the clocke goethe upon. Item, too sacrynge belles.

Item, a lytle chappelle which they use to bury at, beeyng at the townes ende, called Saynt Gyles chappell, with three small belles yn hyt.

Thomas Ofeley.—✠ Humfry Butler.—Thomas Alye.

The inventory and presentment of John Skynner and Hughe Benes, with sir John Greffeyes, Curat of Saynt Julyans, and the sayed Skynner and Benes beyng churchewardens, wyth Rychard Dawes, John Evance, Thomas Lloid, and John Holywell, parishoners of the sayed church, of all the goodes, juelles, ornamentes, belles there belongeng to the sayed parishe church accordyng as the charge to them geven by the kynges comysyoners assyngened (*sic*) for the tyme; anno regni regis Edwardi sexti sexto, vicessimo quarto Augusti.

In primis, one cope of (gold, *erased*) clothe of gold. Item, one chalyce selver gelte, weyng x. ownces. Item, iij. belles agreyng in one accorde. Item, one vyelett coppe of silke. Item, too chaunter coppes of taune selke. Item, a coppe of redde selke with lyenes of golde. Item, a green coppe of selke. Item, a coppe of blowe and redde selke. Item, a vestment of vyelett selke. Item, a vestment of redde selke with lyones of golde. Item, a vestment of redd velvett. Item, a vestment of ray selke. Item, a vestment of selke blowe and redde. Item, a vestment of grene sylke. Item, one peare of organes. Item, iij. auturclothes. Item, iiij. auturclothes pented, Item, one towelle. Item, a crosse copur and gelte. Item, a pyxe copur and gelte. Item, iij. corporys cases.

John Gryfthys, curat.—Thomas Lloyd.

This presentment made xxiiij. day of Auguste, in the syxt yer of Edwarde the syxt, by Sur Joh . . . . clarke, cura . . . . of

<sup>2</sup> Maslyn was a kind of mixed yellow metal or brass, the precise composition of which it is not easy to define.—Ang. Sax. *mæslenn*, *æs*, *aurichalcum*. In these inventories it appears to be distinguished from the yellow metal termed latten, as also in contemporary lists of church goods in Leicestershire mention occurs of

crosses of mastlyn, brass, latin, base metal, and of copper.—Nichols' Hist. Leic., vol. iii. See Gloss. to Robert Glouc. v. Mastlyng. In 1400 an ecclesiastic in Yorkshire bequeaths "pelvim cum lavacro de *messyng*." Test. Ebor.

<sup>3</sup> Satin manufactured at Bruges.

Saynt Maris within the towne of Salope, Wylyam Wyttycares, William Yevans, Thomas Longley . . . . of the sayde church, of all suche godes, juelles, ornamentes, and belles to the sayde church accordyng to the . . . . geven by the kynges commysioners asined for the same, sir Adam Mitton, Kynght (*sic*), Roger Luter, Rychart Wyttycars, bayles of the towne of Salop.

In primis, one coope of clothe of gold. Item, a chalis parcell gylt with a paten, weyng xij. ounces. Item, another chalis parcell gilt with a paten, in the handes of sir Edward Byscou. Item, a crosse of coper and gylt. Item, a boxe covered with red velvet, with a lytle cupe in hit. Item, ij. brasen candl stikes. Item, a sute of vestmentes (with a cope, *erased*) of blu velvet brodrid with grapes of golde. Item, a sute of vesmentes (*sic*) of blu (velvet saten, *erased*) sarenet. Item, a sute of vesmentes of blake wosted. Item, a sute of vesmentes (*sic*) of whit bustion for lente. Item, viij. (sutes of, *erased*) coopes and vestmentes of divars sortes. Item, ij. pere of vestmentes, with albes and all therto belongyng. Item, an alter clothe befor the alther frynged with sylke and crule. Item, a stened clothe for the sepulker. Item, a paule quilted with sylke. Item, sixe corporus cakis of divers colors. Item, ij. alter clothes and ij. toweles. Item, a rynge of belles of v. with that that the cloke strykes on. Item, a litle saunce bell.

John Butlerre.—Wylyam Wytakar.—Wylyam Yevan.—Thomas Langley.—Ryc' Rider.

The presentment of Edward Stevyns, clerke, curat of the parishe chu[rche of Saynt Chads in]<sup>4</sup> the towne of Salop, Thomas Hosyar, Rychard Clerke, Roger Allen and Morgan . . . . wardens of the sayd church, with Humfrey Onysloo, Thomas Sturrey, Nicolas [Purcell] and Edward Hosyar, Esquiers, paryshenors of the sayd paryshe, of all suche goodes [juelles] ornamentes and bells belongyn to the sayd church, accordyng to the char[ge to them] gebyn by the Kynges commissioners assyned for the same, the xvj.th day of . . . . in the syxt yere of the rayne of owr sufferyn lorde kyng Edward the syxt, before sir Adam Mytton, Knyght, Roger Luter, and Rychard Whytaces, bayles of the town of Salop for that yere.

Item, one cope of clothe of golde. (Item, one sute of vestmenttes with one cope of red reysyd velvett, *erased*.) Item, one sute of vestmentes of red velvet and one cope. Item, one sute of vestmentes of blue velvet and one cope. Item, a sute of vestmentes of blue velvett with crosleettes, and ij. chauntre copes. Item, one sute of vestmentes of grene sylcke. Item, a sute of vestmentes of sylcke, for sondayes. Item ij. sutes of vestmentes of whyte af lick (*sic*) gold. Item, a sute of blacke vestmentes. Item, a whyte vestment for lent. Item, a sute of grene vestmentes, lackyng the subdeacons. Item, a syngle vestment of black worstyd. Item, a vestment of violett worstyd. Item, ij. violett copes callyd chauntre copes. Item, ij. grene copes and a red cope. Item, ij. grene copes, the one callyd the Sunday cope. Item, iiij. whyte copes and a cope of dornex.<sup>5</sup> Item, a nother grene cope. Item, ij. cusshynges of

<sup>4</sup> Several defects here occur in the MS. which may probably be supplied as above.

<sup>5</sup> A tissue manufactured at Tournay, formerly called *Dornyck*. Caxton, in the Book for Travellers, mentions Cloth of

Ypre,—of Dornyk (rendered in French *Tournay*) of ryselle (*Lytle*). See Mr. J. G. Nichols' Glossary to the Unton Inventories, v. Dornex.

red velvett and grene on the one syde, and the other syde red damascke. Item, ij. pillowes of clothe of golde. Item, iij. pyllowes of the passion and one olde pyllowe. (Item, a front of green velvet for the hygh awter. Item, another frount party red velvett and black, *erased*.) Item, a sute of vestmentes called the nones vestmentes, and a cope. Item, a cope of olde red velvett. Item, iij. brasen candelstyckes. Item, ij. paxes of latten of Antyeck worck. Item, a sensor of latten. Item, ij. corporas cases. Item, iij. towells of sylcke for Corpus Christi day. Item, a towell of ray sylk. Item, a towell of nydle worcke. Item, viij. diaper towells. Item, v. flaxen auetour clothes. Item, x. towells. Item, iij. hallff reyvyd<sup>6</sup> diaper towells. Item one chalys, weyng xxxij. onces and iij. quarters. Item, another chalys, weyng xij. onces and iij. quarters. (Item, a box of sylver with a cheyne, iij. onces and di, *erased*.) Item, iij. gret bells. Item, ij. small bells callyd the sauntes bells. Item, one gret bell that the clocke goethe apon.

Per me, Humfrey Onyslow.—Per me, Nicolaum Purcell.—Per me, Edwardum Hosyer.—Thomas Yrland.—Richard Germyn.—John Muke-worth.—Edward Stevyns, clerke.—Thomas Hosyer.—Rychard Evared.<sup>7</sup>

Indentures for the safe keeping of the church goods which the king's commissioners allowed to remain in use, in May, 7 Edward VI. 1553.

Thys indenture made the xxij. day of May, anno regni Regis Edwardi sexti vij.<sup>o</sup>, betwene sir Adam Mytton, Knyght, John Corbett of Lye, Esquier, and Roger Lewes, commissyoners by vertue off the Kynges majestes letters off commysyson to them amongst other directed, of the one partie, and sir John Gryffes, Clerke, Curat off saynt Julyanes in the towne of Saloppe, John Skynner, Hugh Benes, wardens of the same church, Rychard Dawes, gent, John Evanes, gent, John Halywell, gent, pariseners of the said church, of thother partie, wytnessyth that there be remayneng within the same church on chalice with a patten weyng twelve owences, and thre bellys in one corde, whiche chales with the patten and belles the sayed commysysoners on the Kynges majestes behalfe straitly chargeth and commandyth them savely and surely to kepe unsold ne otherwise imbessyllyd, untill suche tyme as the Kynges majesties plesure be unto them further signified and declared.

By me, John Gryfyths, cl. Per me Rychard Dawys.—Hugh Beynes.

There follow in like form another Indenture and three "Bills indentid." The indenture, dated 24 May, in the same year, was made between the same commissioners and George Crane, Vicar of St. Alkemun's, Salop, Robert Helyn and Richard Jukes, churchwardens, as to the custody of one chalice parcel gilt with a paten, weighing ten ounces, and three bells. The first bill indentid, dated 23 May, 7 Edw. VI., was made between the same commissioners and "Sir John Buttrye, clerk, vicar assistant of Saint Maryes in Salope," Edward Clerke and Richard Ryder, wardens, Thomas Longley and William Evauns, parishioners, as to the custody of one chalice with a paten weighing 12 ounces, five bells and a saunce bell. The second bill, dated 24 May, 7 Edw. VI., was made between the same

<sup>6</sup> The use of this word as applied to cloth is somewhat unusual. The Prompt. Parv. gives "Ryvyn or rendyn, *laccro*.—Ryfte or ryvyng of clothe, or cutting, *scissura*."

<sup>7</sup> A mark here occurs, probably the symbol of one of the parishioners who could not write his name.

commissioners and "Sir Wylliam Hordley, clerke, vycar of the est Fored, Humfrey Butler and Thomas Lee, wardens of the Est Forhed, Wylliam Powner, Thomas France' parischoners," as to the custody of one chalice with paten weighing 12 ounces, four bells and a clock bell in the said parish, and three little bells "in the (parishe, *erased*) burial of seynte Gyllys, beynge a beryall." The third bill, dated 23 May, 7 Edw. VI., was made between the same commissioners and "Sir Robert Scherer clerke, vicar of Meolle brace, Rycard Medulycot, Rychard Scherer, wardens of the parish church of Meolle, Arthur Macwort, John Scherer, parischoners," as to the custody of one chalice with paten weighing five ounces, and three small bells. Meol-Brace, now called Bracemeol, is a vicarage in the liberty of the borough of Shrewsbury, and situate about a mile south of the town.

The following notes have also been preserved, comprising information of Church goods, supposed to be detained by private persons, in 1571 :

Villa Salop.

Certayne pipes of leade under the earthe, conveying water to the Abbey of St. Peter and Paule by Shrowsburye, as well within the Scite of the seid Abbey as withoute, moche within taken up by one William Langeley, by coloure of the purchase of the seid Abbey. Allso a cesterne of leade without the wall, taken up by the seid Langeley.<sup>8</sup>

Thomas Burnell, Bailiff of Shrowesburye, hathe xlvij. peces of Coapes and vestimentes perteyning to St. Chaddes.

In thandes (*sic*) of William Clerke, of Little Berwicke, a Challice, one coape, one little bell.

Thomas Stirry, heire of Thomas Stirrye, late of Roshall, gent., deceasyd, standyth chargeable with a Challice belonging to the Couuntry Paryshe<sup>9</sup> in St. Chaddes in Shrowsburye, delyveryd to his said father by Edward Betton, gent., and Richard Lancashere.

Thomas Bromall holdeth a Tythe concealed, of vij. s., the yere, sometyme belonging to the paryshe of St. Alkomondes in Salop.

Richard Lee, esquier, receyved xxj. peces of Coapes and vestimentes of Richarde Thornes, by vertue of a comission.

Richard Thornes hathe one Challice with a cover of silver parcell gilte, wayeng xij. oz., also vij. peces of coapes and vestimentes belonging to St. Maryes. Also he concealeth Obligacions of one c.li., made of the Jewells of St. Maryes church, and delyveryd by Obligacion to divers men of the Paryshe in severall sommes.

William Alowe and Richarde Powell detayne obligacions of cxl. li., made of the Ornamentes and Jewells of the Church of St. Chaddes, and delyveryd by severall Obligacions to divers men of the paryshe.

Robert Ireland the elder and Roger Luter detayne the Inventorye of the church goodes of St. Chaddes.

<sup>8</sup> The scite of the abbey had been granted by Henry VIII. on July 22, 1546, to Edward Watson, Esq., of Northamptonshire, and Henry Herdson, a tanner of London. On the following day they granted it to William Langley, of Salop, tailor, and it continued in his family till 1702. Browne Willis says that they never prospered after they had dug up the interments in the church.

<sup>9</sup> This was probably Bicton, distant about three miles on the road to Oswestry. Edward VI. gave the tithes of Bicton, Frankwell, and other places, lately belonging to the collegiate church of St. Chad's, towards the endowing of the Free School, Shrewsbury. At the present time the perpetual curacies of Bicton and of Frankwell are in the patronage of the vicar of St. Chad's.

20 December, 1571.

Mr. Fanshewe.—I praye you receave these notes above wrytten, and that no man putt in information for them, because I have them in sute, and that I maye have processe for them at suche tyme as I shall call for them.

HENRY MIDDELMORE.

The foregoing documents are preserved amongst the records, late part of the Miscellanea of the Queen's Remembrancer, now in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, and in the charge of Mr. Hunter at Carlton Ride. It is due to Mr. Hunter that they have been brought into accessible form, and are available for historical inquiry. We are indebted to his kindness for calling our attention to the series of records connected with the Survey of Church Goods. They show the condition of parish churches shortly after the Reformation, whilst a considerable part of their ancient wealth in plate and vestments remained unalienated. The portion which Mr. Hunter has enabled us to lay before our readers, will amply show the character of these documents and the valuable evidence which they supply, as here exemplified by the returns relating to that chief of English towns, in which the Institute has recently found so cordial a welcome.

On April 2, 1552 (6 Edw. VI.), the king fell sick, as recorded in his Journal. On April 21, the following entry occurs. "It was agreed that Commissions should go out for to take certificate of the superfluous Church Plate to Mine use, and to see how it hath been embezeled."

In May, 1552, the issue of Commissions to persons of note in each county, city, or town, appears to have been in progress. Their names are recorded on the Patent Roll, 6 Edw. VI.; the list is given in the Seventh Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, appendix ii., p. 308, with copies of two commissions found on the Patent Rolls, and an extract from one of the originals remaining in the Exchequer, dated May 16, 6 Edw. VI. These instruments show the objects and powers of the commissioners. A catalogue, topographically arranged, of the inventories has been subjoined by Mr. Hunter, who has given a supplement to this catalogue in the Ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper, appendix ii., p. 283, with copies of the commission for the city of London, dated May 16, 6 Edw. VI.; the instruction to the commissioners, dated June 10, same year, and their answer. Fuller (Church Hist., b. vii.) had printed one of the commissions, from which an extract will be found in Collier; (Eccl. Hist. part II., b. iv., p. 335.) The Commissioners for Shrewsbury were Sir Robert Townsend, Sir Adam Mytton, John Corbett of Lee, the Bailiffs, and Richard Hord.

The Commissioners proceeded in their survey during the remainder of the year. After an interval of eight months, a fresh commission (dated Jan. 16, 6 Edw. VI., 1552-3) issued to the comptroller of the household and other persons appointed to receive the returns, to ensure that they were duly sent from all parts of the kingdom; also with power to appoint deputies to carry away things deemed unnecessary for orderly performance of the public services. Of linen and vestments, distribution was in some cases to be made to the poor, after reserving surplices and altar coverings suitable to each church; part was directed to be sold, as likewise bells deemed superfluous; the proceeds of such sales were to be delivered to the king's treasurer, the plate and ornaments to the keeper of the jewel-house in the Tower.

The words contracted in the original record are here printed *in extenso*.