

Church Plate of the Diocese of Chester

by Maurice H. Ridgway, B.A., F.S.A.

Part One

INTRODUCTION

An initial plan to arrange the parishes by deaneries was frustrated and then abandoned owing to the numerous changes taking place which involved the transfer of some parishes from one deanery to another. To deal with them in alphabetical order seemed to be the only reasonable alternative, and for future convenience alone it is hoped that parishes will not change from one diocese to another.

No accurate or adequate survey of the silver in the churches of the diocese of Chester has so far been attempted in print. The silver in certain churches has occasionally been referred to in guide books but such accounts are often inadequate or inaccurate. The Church plate of the Chester City churches was carefully listed by Stanley Ball but since his time demolition and redundancy of many of them has been responsible for the redistribution of many interesting pieces, and the list needs to be brought up to date.

Almost without exception the author has been able to see all the surviving plate now listed. The survey does not include plate manufactured during the latter half of Victoria's reign nor later reigns.

No survey of this kind would be possible without the encouragement and assistance of others, particularly the incumbents and wardens of so many churches, and the author wishes to express his gratitude to them for their cooperation.

Every care has been taken to record as accurately and as fully as possible, but omissions and mistakes may still occur and the author would greatly value further cooperation in having these pointed out so that they can be incorporated in an appendix. Documentary evidence relating to purchase or donors, or the re-discovery or the loss of plate, by sale or theft, is of particular interest. Much old plate is still in use, or deposited in banks and in either case is well guarded, but it is hoped that by bringing this record to the notice of the general public, support may be given for the establishment of an official Diocesan Treasury where pieces may be on loan and shown to the public, who might otherwise be denied access to them. Such a scheme has been already started at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, where, safely housed and appreciated, the risk of theft and the wish to sell may be overcome.

ACTON (St Mary)

References

- N. Pevsner and E. Hubbard, *The Buildings of England, Cheshire* (1971) 53. (information incomplete and partly incorrect.)
R. Richards, *Old Cheshire Churches* (1947) 15 f. (Illustration (20) given as Acton plate is actually the plate at Wrenbury, Cheshire.)
J. A. Atkinson, *Notes on the Churches of Cheshire* by the late Sir Stephen R. Glynne. Chetham Soc. 32. (1894) 7 f. (plate not mentioned.)

The early plate consists of a plate paten, a 1633/4 Communion cup, a flagon (1705/6), two stand patens (1706/7), a Communion cup (1764/5). There is also a copy of the flagon but in Sheffield Plate dated 1789.

1. PLATE PATEN

What appears to be the earliest surviving silver at Acton is a heavy plate paten diameter 6½ inches having a sloping 1 inch border with two scribed lines close to a semi bead rim. The surface of the plate is now slightly concave. Although it has neither assay marks nor maker's mark it appears to belong to the 17th century and could well have belonged to a Communion cup of considerable proportions.

2. COMMUNION CUP

A Communion cup $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height having a bell shaped bowl $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep, the lip slightly everted. Diameter of rim $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The stem is finely moulded having a plain rounded knob $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep, and stepped foot mouldings. Diameter of base $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On the side of the bowl an inscription in one line punctuated by four small flowers each of which contains a numeral making up the date 1633. (five petal flower. 1) Ex Dono (eight petal flower. 6) Aliciae (five petal flower. 3) Wilbraham (seven petal flower. 3) De Dorfould.

There are four marks on the side of the bowl

- (i) Maker's mark imperfect but appears to be one of a pair of letters, . . . S above a fleur de lys. Probably Jackson. *English Goldsmiths and their Marks*. 1921. p. 118 as on a flagon of 1631/2 at St Briock's Cornwall, VS above a fleur de lys within a plain shield.
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Lion passant.
- (iv) Date letter q (London. 1633/4.)

3. FLAGON

A flagon 13 inches high with tapering sides. Rim diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The bottom of the flagon coincides with a reeded band above a splayed and moulded foot, diameter 7 inches. The lid is domed and moulded with an acorn type finial. S Scroll handle with simple ornamental hinge and a tapered hollow scroll above an ornamental shield terminal. The thumb piece is solid, moulded on the inside and plain on the outside with the exception of small corkscrew horns. The flagon is fully hall-marked, on the flange of the lid and on the body slightly below the rim. The maker's mark is repeated on the scroll handle. On the side of the flagon an inscription. . .

The Gift of the Hon^{le} the Lady Wilbraham
of Weston in Staffordsheir To the Church of Acton in
Cheshire.

- (i) Maker's mark ANe (conjoined) (see Grimwade *London Goldsmiths 1697-1837*. No. 68 for Anthony Nelme.)
- (ii) Britannia mark.
- (iii) Lion's head erased.
- (iv) Date letter K. London. 1705/6.

4. STAND PATEN (1)

A stand paten $7\frac{1}{10}$ inches diameter and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches high with a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch simple moulded border. There are three feint scribed lines on the face of the plate. The stem is tapered to a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch waist and the foot moulded, diameter $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches. The plate is inscribed in three lines. . .

The gift of ye Hon^{ble} ye Lady Wilbraham
of Weston in Staffordsheir
To the Church of Acton in Chessheir

There are four marks

- (i) ANe (conjoined). (Grimwade. *ibid.* no. 68 For Anthony Nelme. London.)
- (ii) Britannia mark
- (iii) Lion's head erased (repeated on the underside of the foot.)
- (iv) London date letter L for 1706/7.

5. STAND PATEN (2)

A stand paten of like dimension and character to No. 4, but with the foot mouldings so damaged that they must be conjectured from the other member of the pair. Inscription and marks as on No. 4.

6. COMMUNION CUP

A bell shaped Communion cup total height $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches with slightly tapered sides and everted lip terminating in a strengthening band on the rim. Diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Depth of bowl $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The stem is compressed, with a knob $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep and 2 inches in diameter. The foot is well moulded, diameter $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Engraved on one side is an elaborate coat of arms and an inscription in three lines...

1st May 1765 The Gift of
Mrs Tomkinson of Dorfold
To the Parish Church of Acton.

and engraved on the other side a sunburst enclosing IHS cross and nails.

There are four marks on the bowl beneath the rim.

- (i) Maker's mark TW with C above and W below, within two concentric circles. (Grimwade, *ibid.* No. 2976, Thomas Whipham and Charles Wright)
- (ii) Lion passant
- (iii) Leopard's head crowned
- (iv) Date letter Gothic I London (1764/5)

There is an almost exact copy of the Anthony Nelme flagon (No. 3) but in Sheffield plate. The finial appears to be detachable and of a different material. On the side is an inscription...

Tho^s Skarrett
John Pratchit
Church Wardens 1789.

ALDERLEY (St Mary, formerly St Lawrence)

References

- Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 291. f.
Richards, *ibid.*, 18. f.
Atkinson/Glynne, *ibid.*, 82
J. P. Earwaker, *East Cheshire* (1880) vol 2. 627

Earwaker gives a copy of an inventory of plate drawn up in 1549 as follows...

A challis wth a paten parcell gilt
Two Crosses, the one of copper, and ye other plated wth copper
and a current (cruet) of pewter.
M^d That their is a Cross of Silver wthin the sayd pish
wch was given by Roger Bostock dec^d to ye pishnorsof
Alderley aforesayd, and to be kept in ye custody of
Oliver Fallowes & William Barnes & their heires to ye
behoof of ye sayd pishnors to use and bestow at their will
and pleasure, as hath been reported by ye substantiall men
of ye sayd pish & wch Cross ye said Oliver Fallowes
& Willm Barnes and other ye honest men of the sayd
pish whose names are herafter written have delivered to
ye custody of Robt Tatton one of ye Com^{rs} before named,
safely to be kept to ye use aforesayd, forasmuch as he is
ye King's Farmer of his Graces lands wthin the sayd parish.
Rec^d by me Robert Tatton, the sayd cross to be kept to ye
sayd pishnors use.

(there follow forty names.)

The plate mentioned in the inventory has not survived, but since that date the church has gained a small early plate paten, a Communion cup of 1696, a small Communion cup and paten for use with the sick undated but by Anthony Nelme (London) entered 1697, (given in 1850,) a stand paten of 1713 and a flagon of 1752/3.

1. PLATE PATEN

A plain plate paten diameter $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches having a plain $\frac{5}{8}$ inch rim giving a comparatively slight depression. The paten is in poor condition, bent and showing numerous knife marks. It carries one mark only, a maker's mark at present unidentified although it might be an Le within a circle. It is not always easy to give a date to this kind of plate paten but it resembles in many ways the patens at Bunbury, Cheshire, by Griffith Edwardes (i) (see Maurice Ridgway *Chester Goldsmiths* p. 36) and that at Baddiley, Cheshire (ibid. p. 46) by John Lingley. These are of late 16th to very early 17th century date, and the Alderley plate paten might well be of the same period.

2. COMMUNION CUP

A Communion cup with bell shaped bowl $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches high with everted rim, diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Depth of bowl 4 inches. At the junction of the splayed stem and the bowl is a simple moulding above a protruding downwards sloping flange. The stem splays out to simple mouldings and a foot diameter of $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The foot mouldings may have been repaired.

There are four marks on the side of the bowl.

- (i) I.B above a crescent (or buckle?). (Compare Jackson, *ibid.* p. 130) within a lozenge
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned
- (iii) Lion passant
- (iv) London date letter a for 1696.

Beneath the foot a single mark of the lion passant (This is an interesting example of the date letter of a new series used on the eve of the introduction of compulsory Britannia silver being used with the older standard of Sterling silver. The Britannia marks were introduced on March 27th)

3. COMMUNION CUP (see also No. 4)

A small Communion cup for use with the sick with bell shaped bowl and strengthened rim, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. Rim diameter $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches, depth of bowl $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The bowl curves to the stem joining it with a simple moulding. The stem is divided by a rounded $\frac{1}{2}$ knob having a central girdle. The foot, diameter $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches has simple mouldings. The bowl is engraved with a sunburst IHS, cross and nails and has been inscribed at a later date...

D.D.
Wm C. Cruttenden, M.A.
Rector
1850

The conjoined mark of Anthony Nelme ANe is struck four times under the foot.

4. PLATE PATEN (see also No. 3)

A small plain plate paten with narrow reeded edge $\frac{3}{8}$ inches depression, diameter $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches, to accompany the Communion cup (3) for use with sick communicants. The surface engraved with a sunburst, IHS, nails and cross and an inscription similar to that on the cup. There are no marks, but presumably by Anthony Nelme (entered 1697 at London.)

5. STAND PATEN

A stand paten diameter 9 inches with narrow moulded rim forming a slight depression. An elaborate coat of arms engraved on the surface of the plate. The stem is plain and the foot well moulded. $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. Foot diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On the underside of the stand paten an inscription...

The Gift of Thomas Holinshead of Haywood to the Church of
Alderley in the County of Chester, gent. 1714

On the surface four marks

- (i) Maker's mark N.E. within two conjoined circles (Grimwade, *ibid.* no. 2087 Jonathan Newton).

- (ii) Britannia mark.
- (iii) Lion's head erased.
- (iv) Date letter s, London 1713/4.

6. FLAGON

A flagon 13½ inches in height with high domed lid engraved with a sunburst, and open harp shaped thumbpiece. Double scroll handle terminating in a plain shield. There is a reeded girdle at the junction of the tapered body of the flagon, and the base, which curves outwards to a moulded foot. The foot diameter 7¾ inches. On the side of the flagon an inscription. . .

The Gift of the Rev^d Mr Croft Rector to the Parish of Alderley A.D. 1753.

On the side of the flagon four marks

- (i) Maker's mark script W.G. within a rectangular frame (Grimwade, *ibid.*, No. 3146 or 3147 for William Grundy)
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned
- (iii) Lion passant.
- (iv) London date letter r for 1752/3

The weight record inscribed beneath base 53 oz 16.

ALDFORD (St John Baptist)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 57

Atkinson writing in 1893 reports that the plate at Aldford consisted of a silver flagon, a chalice and three patens. In recent years the earliest plate has been kept in the Eaton Hall strong room and the Vicar reported that this consisted of a chalice of 1841, a paten with IHS of 1841 and a flagon of 1844.

ALSAGER (Christ Church)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 58

The plate provided when the church was built

1. COMMUNION CUP

A Communion cup with bell shaped bowl. Height 8 inches, diameter of rim 4 inches, stem splays outwards to the foot which has a simple mould and is 4 inches in diameter. On the side of the bowl are rays, in a circle, and IHS with cross and nails, and below this the words. . .

Christ Church Alsager 1789

On the splay of the foot a coat of arms, within an ornamental shield.

There are five marks on the bowl.

- (i) Maker's mark I. R. within a rectangle
- (ii) Lion passant.
- (iii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iv) Date letter o for London 1789/90.
- (v) Duty mark.

2. PATEN

A small stand paten diameter $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches with a $\frac{3}{8}$ inch border, the surface bearing the coat of arms as found on the Communion cup and on the base the words...

Christ Church Alsager 1789.

The foot has a diameter of 2 inches and is filled with a disc engraved with rays, IHS nails and cross. There are five marks as on the Communion cup (1)

3. PATEN

A large plate paten diameter $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch rim on which the coat of arms found on the cup and smaller paten, is engraved and the words...

Christ Church Alsager 1789.

In the centre of the paten within a circle, rays, IHS, nails and cross. There are five marks as on the other plate here, but arranged with the maker's mark in the centre.

4. FLAGON

A high domed flagon 13 inches high rim diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The sides taper with a girdle to mark the bottom of the flagon wall from which the foot splays out to a diameter of $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches with a plain moulding. A plain scroll handle with a capping running towards a curved thumbpiece. The lid is domed and moulded.

The inside of the lid and the base of the flagon have the same marks as found on previous pieces. On the side of the flagon the same sacred monogram, and inscription, and on the splayed base the same coat of arms.

ALTRINCHAM (St George)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 59.

The church was erected in 1799 as a daughter church to Bowdon, which it remained until 1868 when it became a separate parish and underwent a remodelling which destroyed most of its late Georgian character. The plate is of base metal, heavy and without character but probably coeval with the 1799 church. There are two Communion cups only, bell shaped bowls, stems divided by knops and filled in bases.

ASHTON ON MERSEY (St Martin)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 64

Richards, *ibid.*, 24

The Communion plate was stolen in 1840 and not recovered. There appears to have been no detailed list of the lost pieces.

ASTBURY (St Mary)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 65

Richards, *ibid.*, 28

An important and impressive church with saxon origins, rebuilt or enlarged or refashioned a number of times leaving an exceptional and beautiful medieval fabric.

Gordon Cartlidge in *Newbold Astbury and its History* (1915) 99 f. records the earliest known reference to plate at Astbury contained in the Sheriff of Cheshire's certificate of 1548 respecting the bells and plate, the result of the injunctions of the previous year. At Astbury there were then two chalices and four bells. At that time the Higher Chapel (see Congleton St Peter) and Lower Chapel (now demolished) were also in the parish and each had a chalice. We may also assume cover patens as well. None has survived.

A latin inscription preserved on a cup of 1707 (see No. 1) records that it replaced one given in 1634 by Richard Henshall. This was either lost or perhaps replaced by Josiah Henshaw the Congleton schoolmaster who died in 1709. If this is so the 1634 cup may have been given to the church by Richard Henshall to commemorate his silver wedding to Elizabeth Hollinshed whom he married clandestinely in 1609.

The next surviving inventory appeared two centuries later in 1727 when the church plate was handed over to the new churchwardens on 18th July. This reads . . .

Two Silver Flagons weighing two hundred and thirty four ounces and ten pennyweights.

Two silver salvers.

Two chalices and two covers.

Two old pewter flagons.

In 1871 this list is repeated but with the addition of a spoon. In 1976 with the exception of the spoon, about which nothing further can be traced, the list remains intact for the older plate.

1. COMMUNION CUP

A large Communion cup with bell shaped bowl, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, rim diameter $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Depth of bowl 3 inches curving into a stem which is divided by a narrow knop $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide and sweeping down to a moulded foot, diameter $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches, which has been slightly crushed. Weight $15\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (adp.) On the bowl arranged in a circle around the word Astbury is the inscription. . .

Ex done Ricardi Henshall Anno Dom: 1634

There are four marks on the side of the bowl below the rim.

- (i) Maker's mark. F.A. within a circle of pellets. Possibly John Fawdey of London who entered his mark there in 1697. (See Grimwade, *ibid.* No. 662) A stand paten at Congleton St Peter is by the same maker with the date letter for 1699.
- (ii) Britannia mark.
- (iii) Lion's head erased. (this mark repeated under the foot.)
- (iv) London date letter m for 1707/8

2. COMMUNION CUP

A Communion cup similar to No. 1 but a shade more slender. Height $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches rim diameter $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Base diameter $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches, knop diameter $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The word Astbury is engraved on the side of the bowl. The marks are the same as those on cup No. 1.

3. STAND PATEN

A stand paten made to accompany the two cups Nos. 1, 2. Diameter $9\frac{7}{8}$ inches with a narrow border reeded $\frac{1}{3}$ inch wide. In the centre of the paten the word Astbury and three feint scribed lines as though intended for an additional inscription. The stand is $2\frac{5}{6}$ th inches high making total height of $3\frac{1}{6}$ inches. The stand joins the paten base with a simple mould and sweeps down to a moulded foot diameter $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. There are four marks on the paten surface

- (i) Maker's mark F.A. as on the Cups Nos. 1 and 2.
- (ii) Britannia mark.
- (iii) Lion's head erased. (Lion's head erased, mark struck again under the foot)
- (iv) London date letter m for 1707/8

4. STAND DISH

A large stand dish, diameter $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches with plain sweeping sides almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth, on a curved stand with a waist slightly over $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and sweeping down to a moulded foot which has been crushed, diameter $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches. Total height $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches. There is an inscription on the underside of the dish in two lines...

The Gift of Tho: Higginbothem Gent
to the Parish Church of : Asbury 1706 (the spelling as given)

Weight 590 g. (1lb. 9oz. adp).

There are four marks ...

- (i) Maker's mark Yo with pellet above and below within a shaped frame for Edward Yorke of London. (see Grimwade, *ibid.* No. 3381.)
- (ii) Britannia mark.
- (iii) Lion's head erased.
- (iv) London date letter o for 1709/10.

5 and 6. COVER PATENS

Two identical cover patens made to use with cups, nos. 1 and 2. Diameter 5 inches with a narrow cut back rim to accommodate the rim of the cup. The stand is curved with a waist and the base is blocked and carries inscribed the sacred monogram of rays, IHS, nails and cross. The foot is not moulded but has three scribed lines encircling it. $1\frac{1}{3}$ inches. There is no inscription but there are four marks on the surface of the paten. Weight 105 g.

- (i) The maker's mark BA within a frame. (Grimwade, *ibid.* No. 116, for Richard Bayley)
- (ii) Britannia mark.
- (iii) Lion's head erased.
- (iv) London date R for 1712/3

7 and 8. FLAGONS (Plate 14)

Two massive almost identical flagons, one being slightly heavier than the other and differing in a few details in the spelling of the inscription.

Each flagon is $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Rim diameter $5\frac{13}{16}$ inches, with flattened domed lid, the lower moulding incurving. The sides batter only slightly and there is a belt moulding before the foot splays, to mark the bottom of the flagon body. The moulded foot has a diameter of $9\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Handle S scroll with oval collars. The thumbpiece is identical with that on the Congleton (St Peter) flagon, of acanthus form. Spouts have been added at a later date. Each has a long inscription ...

This flaggon and such another were given for the use
of the Communion Service in this Church by Peter Shakerley
of Somarford in this Parish of Astbury Esq^r
Eldest Son of Sir Geoffrey Shakerley Knight by Katherine
his first wife Daughter of W^m Penington of Muncaster in
the County of Cumberland Esq^r 1716.

The marks are as follows ...

Inside the lid... (i) Britannia mark.

(ii) London date letter A for 1716/7.

(iii) Lion's head erased.

(iv) Maker's mark (omitted on one flagon.)

On the handle... The maker's mark BA with pellet above and below, within a shaped frame.
(see Grimwade, *ibid.* no. 116, for Richard Bayley of London.)



Plate 14. Astbury Flagon. Photograph M. H. Ridgway.

- On the body... (i) Maker's mark (Grimwade 116) as on handle.
 (ii) Lion's head erased.
 (iii) Britannia mark.
 (iv) London date letter A for 1716/7.

Weight Flagon (7) 7lb 14 oz. (3Kg. 580g.) (8) 8 lb (3Kg. 620g.)

ASTON. Near Runcorn. (St Peter)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 67.

Richards, (ill) *ibid.* new edition (1973) opp. 816

Festival Exhibition of Ecclesiastical and Secular Silver 1951. (Chester)

Charles Oman, *English Church Plate. 597-1830*, (1957)43, plate 10

Attention was only drawn to the importance of the medieval chalice and paten at Aston at the time this small country church was recovering from severe bomb damage in the second world war.

1 MEDIEVAL CHALICE (Plate 15)

Charles Oman commenting upon the good workmanship and general appearance of the plate suggests that it may have been made for a private chapel of some importance. An 18th century tradition perpetuated in the Church terrier under 4 May 1789 declares it to be 'of French origin', but

Charles Oman (*ibid*) places this silver gilt chalice in Group 6 along with two other chalices of similar form and construction, one at Hanstall Ridware (Staffordshire,) and the other at Goathland (Yorkshire). At Aston the hexagonal stem merges into the knop and base have incurved sides decorated with a double row of quatrefoils and in this feature the chalice appears to be unique. The foot is engraved on one facet with the Crucifixion and on adjacent facets with the attendant figures. On the facet opposite to the Crucifix a coat of arms. (On a cross five lions rampant. Perhaps Belyn, Co. Chester.) The height of the chalice is 5½ inches and the foot 5¼ inches. There are no marks. Probably late 14th century.

2 PATEN (Plate 16)

The silver gilt paten accompanying the chalice at Aston is of the same date, late fourteenth century. It has a sunk circular centre engraved with the Manus Dei on a saltire of small crosses within a wreath of lobes and scrolls. Diameter 5 inches. There are no marks.

3 CREDENCE OR STAND PATEN

Reference and Illustration Richards (New Edition.) opp. p. 816.

A large stand paten diameter 12½ inches, overall height 2 inches with 1¾ inch rim having shallow mouldings around the edge. There is a pronounced depression and in the centre of the plate a coat of arms having a small lion passant in the centre of a cross flory. The coat is surrounded with plumes which are tied beneath the coat, the stand is attached to the bottom of the plate with a plain disc and has a waist of 1½ inches sweeping towards a flat foot diameter 3⅞ inches. The foot is blocked and there are shallow mouldings round rim and a single scribed line on the stem slightly above the junction with the foot plate. There are four marks on the plate rim.

- (i) Maker's mark R L above a fleur de lys within a plain shield.
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Lion passant.
- (iv) London date letter S (1675/6).

The rest of the plate at Aston consisting of a flagon, chalice, paten and larger paten are London provided by Garrard's 1863/4.

The 3 May 1789 Terrier contains the following extract...

'Item in the Chancel A Communion Table with a crimson woollen Carpet and for the time of Administering the Lord's Supper, a Decent Linen cloth, one of French plate Gilt with Gold Chalice, one small paten of French plate gilt, one large Silver paten, on two quart flagon, Two small boxes to Receive the alms of the Communicants. The Above plate, Carpet and Linen provided by the Aston family, and the plate and linen kept at the Hall...'

AUDLEM

References

- Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 68
Richards, *ibid.*, 32
Atkinson/Glynne, *ibid.*, 12
Chester Festival Exhibition 1951, 32, 42.

Audlem Parish Church is rich in early plate. There remain six pieces, four of English workmanship and two of German. Richards and even later Pevsner and Hubbard both mention a paten cover. The former stating that... it was 'fitted to the chalice, possibly a little later in date, and often used as a paten'. But this piece was not known to the Vicar in 1976. Pevsner and Hubbard report its existence but query the date though suggest 1635, the date of the Communion cup referred to by Richards and still the earliest plate to survive at Audlem.



Plate 15. Aston Chalice. Photograph Victoria & Albert Museum.

1. COMMUNION CUP

A rather massive gilt Communion cup $9\frac{3}{8}$ inches high with a bell shaped bowl rim diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, depth of bowl, which has an everted rim, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The bowl is separated from the stem by a tucked in moulding, the top of the stem where it overhangs having a simple scribed line, before curving to a waist 1 inch in diameter and a substantial knop $\frac{5}{8}$ inch deep with top and bottom mouldings. The foot is well moulded and the base has an enrichment of ovolos. Foot diameter $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch within the foot the base is blocked and inscribed 26..6..0 (for the weight). Inside the foot an inscription. . .

Humbly dedicated to the service of God in the
Parish Church of Audlem by R B 1635 +

There are four marks on the side of the bowl just below the rim.

- (i) Lion passant.
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.

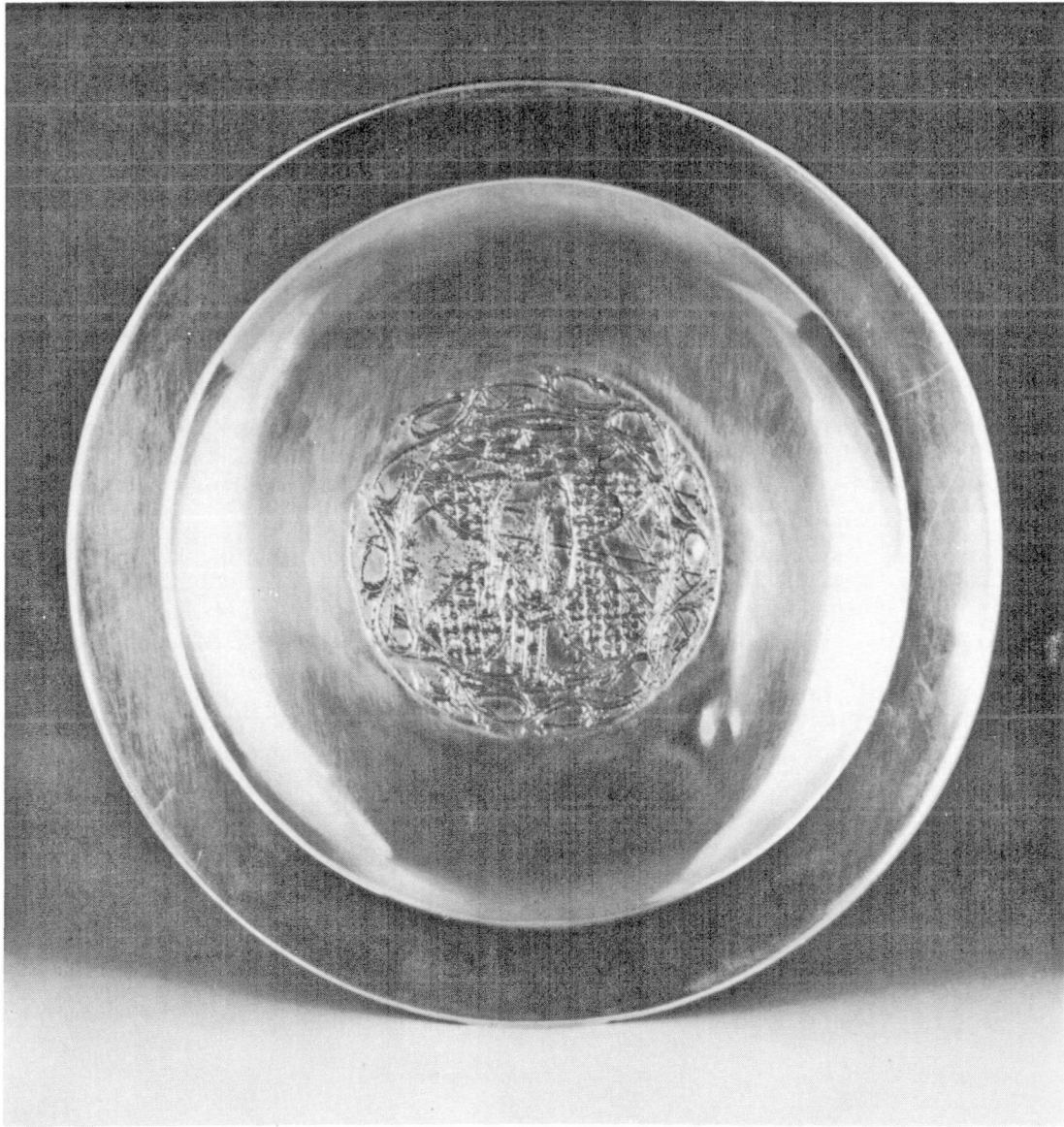


Plate 16. Aston Paten. Photograph Victoria and Albert Museum.

(iii) Maker's mark (inverted) P and another letter with several pellets above and a crescent below all within a circle.

(iv) Date letter indistinct but probably r London, 1634/5

(As noted in the introduction, the paten cover for this appears to have been lost in recent years)

2. LARGE CREDENCE PATEN or ALMS DISH

Festival Exhibition. Chester 1951. Exhibit no. 32.

A large Credence paten or alms dish diameter $13\frac{1}{8}$ inches with a wide moulded border $\frac{7}{8}$ inch wide with trumpet shaped stand making a total height of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The foot has a diameter of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches and has an engraved inscription beneath which reads in script...

The Guift of Thomas Lord Viscount Killmorey to the parish
Church of Audlem 1685

There are four marks on the surface of the plate

(i) Maker's mark. R.L. above fleur de lys within a plain shield. Suggested maker Robert Leke, London.

- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Lion passant (repeated under the foot)
- (iv) London F 1683/4.

(see also No. 3)

3. ALMS DISH

A large dish diameter $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches with a wide border sloping inwards $2\frac{1}{3}$ inches wide and the rim moulded for $\frac{5}{6}$ th inch. The dish is deep making total depth of 1 inch and has a single depression. There are four marks on the underside of the rim and also an inscription on the back which reads, in script...

The gift of Thomas Lord Killmoray To the parish Church
of Audlem + 1685 +

The marks are much worn but may be reconstructed from the stand credence paten. (No. 2)

- (i) Maker's mark R.L above a fleur de lys within a simple shield, suggested maker Robert Leke.
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Lion passant.
- (iv) London F (1683/4)

4. BAPTISMAL BASON

The gift of this baptismal bason to the Parish Church of Audlem is recorded on the benefactors' board in the church. Part of this reads...

Benefactors to the Parch of Audlem by William Evans
M.A. late Master of the Free School there and by Ann his widow
both deceased.

He gave a pew or seat in ye gallery of the church for
the use of the school which cost him... 3. 0. 0

She gave the Altar piece that cost her... 14. 10. 0

Also the Silver Bason for the font value... 10. 0. 0.

The 'bason' was exhibited at the Chester Festival Exhibition in 1951 Exhibit No. 42.

The bowl rests upon a circular foot with stepped moulding $\frac{1}{3}$ inch deep and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The bason stands $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. It has a fluted body and an everted and scalloped rim, diameter 10 inches. Along with the weight record 24. 4. there is also engraved a long inscription...

For the more decent Celebration of the Holy Sacrament
of Baptism in the Parish Church of Audlem This Bason
is Humbly dedicated to the font there by Ann Evans Widow
of Wm Evans M.A. XXXV Years Master of the Free School
of the Said Parish, out of her regard to her said late
Husbands Intention tho' not requir'd by his Will 1744.

The inscription avoids the four assay marks which also appear here.

- (i) Date letter i (London 1744/5)
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Maker's mark with pellet above and below, within a lozenge frame, (Grimwade, No. 591, E.G. Elizabeth Godfrey)
- (iv) Lion passant

5. CHALICE (see also No. 6)

A German made chalice $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high with a wide tapering bowl diameter of rim $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches,

and depth 3 inches. The stem is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, consisting of an octagonal baluster inverted pear shape in section between two sets of circular mouldings. The uppermost $\frac{3}{8}$ inch of the bowl is gilt and the chalice bowl parcel gilt. Immediately below the band of gilding on the bowl is an inscription in German. . .

MACHT UNS REIN VON ALLEN
SUNDEN 1 JOH 1 v. 7
DAS BLUT JESU CHRISTI DES
SOHNES GOTTES

...

OBLATEN DOSE VON DENEN
HRN OFFICIEREN DES
HRN OBRISTEN V
SOMERFELDTS ZU
GOTTES EHREN NEBST
DEN SILBERN

REGIMENT GESCHENCKT

DEN 21 XBR 1725

The latter part of the inscription after the text may be loosely translated as follows. . .

The wafer box from the Officers of Colonel Somerfeldt in honour of God together with the silver. Presented to the Regiment. 21 December 1725.

The stem is attached to the octagonal foot by means of a screw and nut. It sweeps down to a series of simple bold mouldings to an octagonal foot 5 inches across under which are two marks.

- (i) Very worn but perhaps an animal or bird head within an ornamental shield.
- (ii) The initials G I within an oval.

On the main moulding of the foot is a later inscription which reads. . .

To the glory of God and in loving and grateful
Memory of Annie Mary Baker died 9 September 1954.

and under the foot the inscription continues. . .

The gift of her husband William Mangnall Baker.

The chalice is kept in a leather case which appears to be contemporary.

The German inscription is a little confusing. The marks on the wafer box (No. 6) are not the same as those found on the chalice although a wafer container is mentioned in the inscription on the chalice. Little is known of the history of this piece and of No. 5. The written note found with the wafer box seems to suggest that it came from a separate sale over fifty years after the chalice was given to the Church, though the texts appear to link the two.

6. WAFER BOX (see also No. 5)

An oval wafer box with a hinged, slightly domed, lid $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{7}{16}$ ths inches. The inside of the box and the inside of the lid are gilt as also the side of the lid which is $\frac{5}{16}$ th inches and the bottom of the side, also $\frac{5}{16}$ th inches. The total height of the box is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Within a gilt oval on the top of the lid is a three line inscription as follows. . .

MEIN FLEISCH IST
DIE RECHTE SPEISE
JON 6, v. 55

There are two marks on the bottom of the box

- (i) Indistinct but probably some form of animal's head with an irregular frame.
- (ii) Letters within a rectangular frame. (indistinct)

A loose paper kept inside the box reads...

Maker Carolus Unger, Hanover/Eitstat.

and a second paper states that the wafer box came from the Duke of Cambridge's sale July 1904 and translates the German text on the lid 'My flesh is right food. John. 6. v. 55.' It also refers to the German text on the chalice (No. 5 q.v.)

BACKFORD (St Oswald.)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 69.

Richards, *ibid.*, 33.

Atkinson/Glynne, *ibid.*, 118.

Although a number of interesting features remain the church was thoroughly restored and partly rebuilt in 1879, and no early plate remains.

BADDILEY (St Michael)

References

Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 70.

Richards, *ibid.*, 38.

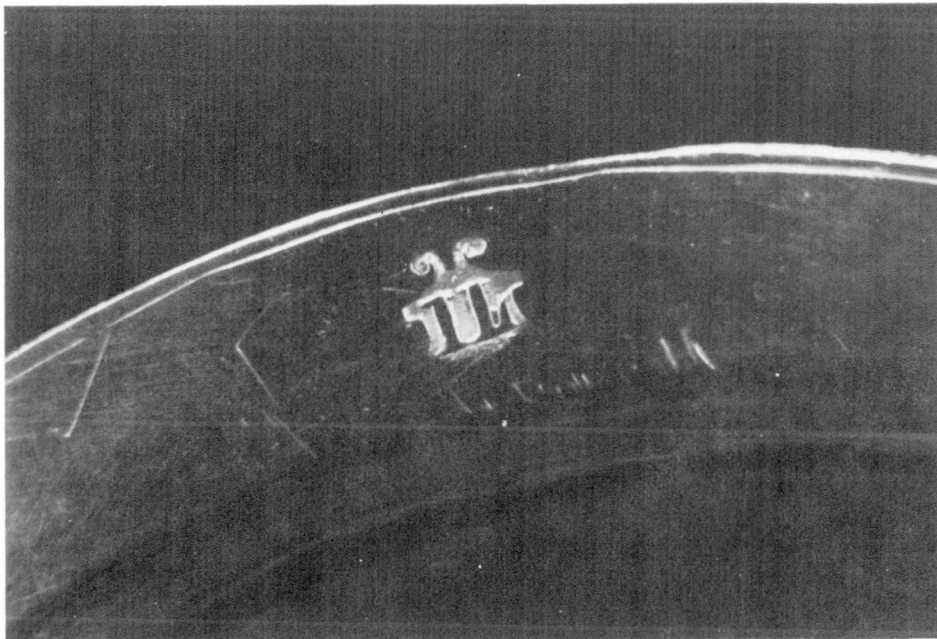


Plate 17. The mark of John Lingley on the plate paten at Baddiley.
Photograph M. H. Ridgway.

1. PLATE PATEN (Plate 17)

The earliest surviving plate at Baddiley, an isolated part timber church now linked with Wrenbury, is a small paten of plate form, diameter $3\frac{7}{8}$ bearing the single mark IL within an ornamental shield. The paten is entirely plain having only a slight depression and narrow rim on which is a single incised line. In some respects it resembles the plate paten made by Griffith Edwardes (i) for Bunbury, Cheshire, and can probably be dated about the same time, namely the last quarter of the sixteenth century. In neither case has the cup survived. The cup at Baddiley (no. 2) is 1624/5 London and that at Bunbury 1632/3 London.

The mark IL is that of John Lingley the Chester Goldsmith who is first mentioned in the Chester Company books in 1576, signed the books in 1585 and was fined by London Goldsmiths in 1573. He

is listed in the Freeman roll at Chester under 1565/6 although not there supplied with a trade. He died in 1615 shortly after his son and heir to the business had also died and had been buried in St Michael's Church Chester leaving a young wife and family, but his son, Jacob, grandson of the maker of the Baddiley plate paten did not follow as a goldsmith and became a feltmaker.

Other examples of plate by John Lingley are to be found in the Lleyn peninsular at Bryncroes (cup and paten cover), Tydweiliog (cup and paten cover) Botwnnog (cup and paten cover), in Anglesey at Llanbedrgoch (cup) in Clwyd at Chirk (cup) and Llandyrnog (cup) and at Holt where perhaps both father and son made the smaller civic mace. (See Ridgway, *ibid*, 42 f.)

2. COMMUNION CUP

A Communion cup with goblet type bowl and slender baluster stem, splaying out to the foot. The cup is $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height London assay marks with maker's mark IH above a five point star within an ornamental shield and the London date letter g (1624/5) on the bowl, the Sterling mark repeated on the base. The Church also has a pewter flagon, and a plated flagon and credence paten.

BARROW (St Bartholomew)

see GREAT BARROW

BARTHOMLEY (St Bertoline)

References

- Pevsner and Hubbard, *ibid.*, 71
Richards, *ibid.*, 43

1. COMMUNION CUP

A Charles II cup the bowl with almost straight sides placed at a fifteen degrees splay, $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches in height, rim diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, depth of bowl 4 inches joining the stem flange with a cable moulding, the underside of the bowl having concentric incised lines; the stem is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and the knop $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The foot splays out trumpet fashion the diameter being $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Under the foot are the initials Z.E above C (standing for the donors Zachary and Ellen Caudrey) and a repeat of the sterling mark of the lion passant. On the side of the bowl is an inscription in script lettering. . .

The Gift of Zachary Caudrey Recto^r to the Parish of Barthomley

On the side of the bowl a little below the rim are four marks

- (i) Maker's mark S. H above a fleur de lys, within a heart shaped frame. The mark resembles that reported on a flat topped tankard (Jackson, *ibid.*, 141, dated 1683/4) and the cup like that at Pentir, Caernarvonshire (E. Alfred Jones, *Church plate of the Diocese of Bangor*, 108) which is also by London maker SR with cinquefoil below within a plain shield (Jackson, *ibid.*, c. 1672/3)
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Lion passant. (repeated under the foot)
- (iv) London date letter M for 1669/70

A Zachary Caudrey was rector of Melton Mowbray from 1613 to 1660 where he was buried. At Melton Mowbray there is an alabaster slab above the north transept door to verify this. His wife Elizabeth died of the plague which raged in the town in 1637. That he was no absentee at Melton Mowbray but a conscientious rector is proved by the large number of continuous entries signed by him in the registers (where he signs as Z. Cowdray.) There is no record of any plate having been given to Melton Mowbray by him and as there is an Elizabethan cup and paten of 1568 which survived the Commonwealth, no doubt any gift given by him would also have survived.

In view of the information from Melton Mowbray kindly supplied by Mr P. E. Hunt, The Close, Burton Lazars, Nr Melton Mowbray, it would seem that the Barthomley Zachary Caudrey was probably son of the Melton Mowbray Rector for a brass at Barthomley now placed on the south wall of the sanctuary states that he died in 1684 and that his wife Ellen died in 1681.

2. COMMUNION CUP (see also No. 3)

A Communion cup with bell shaped bowl having steep sides and slightly everted rim, diameter 4 inches inscribed on the side of the bowl

The Parish of Barthomly

The bottom of the bowl which turns at an angle towards the stem is supported on trumpet shaped stem with a simple moulded foot. Foot diameter $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, inscribed beneath with the weight 09. 18. 00, where there are two marks of the lion passant. There are four marks on the side of the bowl.

- (i) Maker's mark TC with a small fish above and a five point star below within a deckled shield (see Jackson, *ibid.*, 138 under 1679/8 on a pair of patens at St Edmund the King and Martyr, London. Jackson gives the five point star as a fleur de lys or perhaps a quatrefoil)
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Lion passant. (repeated twice under the foot)
- (iv) London date letter T (1676/7)

3. STAND PATEN (see also No 2)

A small stand paten to accompany Communion cup No 2 (though not at present used with it) Diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, overall height 1 inch. The plate has a single depression with a slightly rising border $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and quite plain. The depression fits over the rim of the Communion cup (no 2). The plain stem splays outwards to an open flat foot ring. The edge of the plate is inscribed as on Communion cup no. 2 in script,

The parish of Barthomly

Although there are no marks, one can safely assume that it was made to accompany the Communion cup in 1676/7.

4. STAND OR CREDENCE PATEN

A wide ($8\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter) dish like stand paten, with a shallow curving bowl resting on a plain open trumpet foot, diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Total height 2 inches. Inscribed on the surface of the bowl the sacred monogram IHS with cross and nails within rays, where also are the marks. The Lion passant mark is repeated under the foot which shows pronounced hammer marks on the inside where also the weight is inscribed 12. 11.

- (i) Maker's mark RL above a fleur de lys within a shaped shield (compare Jackson, *ibid.*, 139)
- (ii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iii) Lion passant.
- (iv) London date letter d (1681/2)

5 and 6. FLAGONS

A pair of identical flagons (except for the weight one being 62. 12 and the other 63. 4 as inscribed on the base of each).

Each flagon is $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches high with a domed lid and open scroll thumb above a broken scroll handle. The sides are tapered and moulded at the rim, with a girdle moulding to mark the junction of the body and base. The base is splayed with simple moulding on the foot, under which is inscribed...

The Gift of Mrs Crew

These flagons were exhibited at the Chester Festival Exhibition in 1951 when the coat of arms inscribed on the side of the flagons was identified as...

Crewe and Offley quarterly impaling a variation of Maddox.

The arms are within a lozenge frame surrounded by rococo scrolls and flowers. There are four marks, the maker's mark repeated on the handle.

- (i) Maker's mark D P within lobed and shaped frame with a pellet above the initials. This mark appears to be that of Daniel Piers. (See Grimwade No. 493)
- (ii) Lion passant.
- (iii) Leopard's head crowned.
- (iv) London date letter o (1749/50)

BEBINGTON (St Andrew)

see LOWER BEBINGTON

BIDSTON (St Oswald)

References

Atkinson/Glynne, *ibid.* 61.

By the time Atkinson wrote (1893) 'The Old Communion plate has disappeared.' There appear to be no records of what disappeared, or when.

The second part of this series will be published in Volume 61 of the Journal.