

THE EDWARDIAN INVENTORIES OF MIDDLESEX

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Henry's VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1539 and 1540 was followed in 1545 by an Act dissolving chantries, hospitals and free chapels. In 1547 those in authority who sought their own aggrandisement engineered the passing of an Act vesting in Edward VI the religious institutions left untouched by his father. This necessitated the drawing up of lists of the church property to be attached and the Edwardian inventories were the result.

The Middlesex inventories are in the Public Record Office¹. They are in two sections, bound together in one volume. First, a series of seven: Chelsea, Kensington, Fulham, Chiswick, Ealing, Acton and Marylebone. Then follow 20 parishes of the Hundred of Ossulstone: Edmonton, Enfield, Whitchurch, Hendon, Hadley, Tottenham, Edgware, Harrow, South Mimms, Pinner, St. Giles, Stratford at Bow, Hornsey, St. Pancras, Paddington, Finchley, Hampstead, Willesden, West Twyford, and Clerkenwell.

I.—THE PRYSSHE CHURCHE OF CHELSEY

We the Jury doo present and sertyfy the goods plate ornaments Jewells and Bells belongynge and aperteynyng to the Church of Chelsey w.t. in the countie of Mydd as well withe in the Inventory takyn by the Kynges Maiesties Commissioners as alsoo other goods belongynge to the same Church and parysshe not beyng in the Inventory with Rerages and other deptts belongynge to the same Church as aperythe hereafter more playnly certyfyed by VS the same Jury the fyfte daye of Augoost in the yere of our Lorde god a thowsand fyve honndryth fyfty and two and in the Sexte yere of the Reigne of our Souvereigne Lorde Kyng Edwarde the sext by the grace of God of Inglande France and Ierlande kyng Defendour of the faithe and of the Church of Ingland and Ierland the suprem hede imedyatly under God.

THIS INVENTORY made the tenth daye of marche in the thurde yere of the Reigne of our most dreade soveraigne Lorde kyng Edwarde the

ext of all suche goods as is in the Churche of Chelsey in the countie of Mydd by the consent of Robertt Richardson Clarke parson of the same, Thomas Beane the younger and Henry Chamber wardens of the same hurche John Shelly and George Bryce of the seyde parrysse wytnes to the same.

ewells and Itm two chalics of sylver wt patens by syde one whiche late was brent and consumed by fyer beyng in the costodie of Thomas Beane.

CHELSAY THE INVENTORY

tm a Crose of copper and gylte & a lyttell maser² wt a Bonde of sylver.
tm three aulter clothes to hange before the aultors.
tm three Aulter clothes of dyeper³.
tm iiij towells of dyeper.
tm two Curtens at the Highe Aulter.
tm fyve Candelstycks of Latten⁴.
tm two Basons of pewter.
tm iiij Corporas⁵ cases and two clothes belongynge to them.
tm Two Quesshions of Tynsell.
tm iiij Quesshions of owlde sylke.
tm iij Vestments one of Blacke Vellett and two of Satten wt Vellett Crosses and all thynge belongynge to them.
tm vij owlde Vestments of Satten and caddas⁶.
tm one Cope of Tawny Vellett & one other owlde Cope.
tm two Curtyns of sylke wt a Cannapy of sylke.
tm one hearse⁷ clothe of tynsell sylke and Vellett.
tm fyve Surpleses newe and owlde.
tm vij great bowks besyde the Byble.
tm three masse bowks and vij smale bowks.
tm a sensor of Latten.
tm a holy water stocke.

The ladye Itm in the same Chapell two aulter clothes.
mores chapel Itm an aulter clothe of Brydgs⁸ Satten wt a Border to the same.

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CHELSAY MORE OF THE INVENTORY

Itm two Corteyns of sylke belongynge to the same.

Itm xiiij bowle Candelstycks of pewter and a lyttyll Branche of Latten and two Lamps of Latten.

Itm one payre of Orgayns.

Itm in the steple three greate bells and one lyttyll saunce bell.

Itm two Hande Bells and a sakarynge bell.

Itm two Cruetts of pewter.

Itm a lyttell Chest wythe two locks.

Itm in the steple three owlde Chests.

Sowlde Serteyn goods sowlde By Robert Fyssher and John Shelley Church wardens wt the consente of the same parrysseoners the parsells as followeth—

Imprimis sowlde to Thomas Hungerford gent a

Corporas case	iijs	iiijd
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and a Quesshion	vs	
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and a maser gylte beyng garneshed wt sylver & gylte	xiijs	
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Itm sowlde to Water Harbarde gent a Vestment of Blacke Vellett pree

xxs

and a nother Vestment pryce	xs	
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and a nother Vestment pryce	vjs	viijd
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and a Cannapy clothe pryce	xiijs	iiijd
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and the Hangyns of the aulter for lantt	ijs	
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lijs

CHELSAY. GOODS SOWLDE

Itm sowlde to Thomas Saunders

two aulter clothes		vjd
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and three Vestments pryce	xs	
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and two banner clothes pryce		viijd
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and an other owlde Vestment pryce		xvjd
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	xijs	vjd
--	------	-----

Itm sowlde to George Bryce a Vestment a

Corporas Cape and two Vestments of whytt

Satten pryce	xijs	
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and two Hangyns for an aulter pryce		xijd
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xiijs

Itm sowlde to Robertt Mr. Hungerfords svant an albe pryce		xvjd
Itm sowlde a Vestment to Harvy Chamber pryce	iiijs	
Itm sowlde to Robert Fyssher a paynted clothe pryce	ijs	
Itm to the same Fyssher sowlde a table clothe of dyeper pryce	iiijs	
Itm sowlde to Sr Edmonde Burtton an albe pryce and to the same Burtton the cannapy staves pryce		xvjd viijd
Itm sowlde to Robert Lyawle an albe pryce		xvjd
Itm sowlde to Thomas Lyans an albe pryce		xvjd
Itm sowlde a Crose of Copper and gylte and a Lyttell Branche of Latten and two Lamps of Latten a holy watter stocke of Latten a Sensor of Latten all whiche parsells doithe weye xxx li pounds pryce the pounce iijd	vijs	vjd
sowlde to John Cartar of Westmynster		
Itm sowlde to the same Cartar xiiij lyttell bowlc candelstyccks of pewter weynge vij pounds pryce of Every pounce xd	vs	xd
Som of thes goods sowlde	vi li vijs	ijd

OWYNG TO THE CHURCHE

CHELSAY

Depts and Rerages dewe to the church as aperyth hereafter.

Imprimis Stephen Clabrooke	xls	
Itm Thomas Lyons	xxvjs	viijd
Itm Thomas Hungerford gent	xxs	iiijd
Itm Thomas Saunders	xiis	vjd
Itm John Ewersbe	iiijs	iiijd
Itm Robert Fyssher	iijs	viijd
Itm John Beane	iijs	vjd
Itm the execuntours of Thomas Beane desesynd for a chalice of sylver and gylte brent wt fyer as they said vallewed at	v li	
Remanyng in the Churchc bocks beyng in the		

costodye of John Shelley and Thomas Smythe church

wardens

Sme of all thes deppts and Rerags

xxxiiijs

ijd

xij li vjs

ijd

GOODS REMANYNGE IN THE CHURCH

CHELSAY

Thes Be the parsells of the plate

Ornaments and other goods Remanynge in the Church
in costody of John Shelley and Thomas Smythe
churche wardens

Remanynge in the Church

Imprimis two Challics parsell gylte

Itm two candellstycks of Latten

Itm one Corporas casse of Redd Vellett and
tynselle

Itm iiij Qwesshions

Itm two table Clothes

Itm two towells

Itm three Albes

Itm three Sorpleses

Itm a clothe to kever the Communyon table of
sylke

Itm a hearse clothe of Redd sylke and golde

Itm a payre of Orgayns

Itm two lyttell basons

Itm iij greatt bells

and a lyttell bell in the stuple

Itm three owlde Chests

THES PARSELLS of the goods mensioned wt. in the Inventory takyn
by the Kings Highnes Comessioners in the thurde yeare of his moost
gracyous Reigne were stowln and the Churche broken the parsells of the
goods as aperythe hereafter.

STOWLN.

Imprimis one Coope of tawne Vellett Branched wt golde

Itm a Hearse Clothe of Blewe Vellett wt a Crosse of Redd
Vellett and Branched wt golde and the Coope of Caddas and

two Curttens of sylke two aultor Clothes of Dyeper and two sorpleses two towells one of them Dyeper the other playne and one Corporas case and a Clothe therein and two albes.

NOTES

- 1 Church Books. E.315. Aug. Off., Misc. Books. Vol. 498.—In a chapter of his *English schools at the Reformation, 1546-48* headed "Edward VI: spoiler of schools" Arthur Leach has shown how undeserved is Edward's reputation as a patron of education. To many a chantry a school was attached and shared its fate. Sometimes local patriotism refounded a school to which, ironically enough, the name of Edward was then attached by suitors for the king's favour.
- 2 Maser. A bowl or goblet of wood.
- 3 Diaper. A rich figured cloth.
- 4 Latten. A mixed metal resembling brass.
- 5 Corporas. The cloth placed beneath the consecrated elements in the sacraments.
- 6 Caddis. Worsted ribbon, also a woollen stuff.
- 7 Hearse. Not a vehicle, but the strengthened frame on which the coffin was placed when it reached the church, similar to the French *herse* meaning, first, a harrow and then a portcullis. Cf also *passim* the diary of Henry Machin (1550-1563), who was a funeral furnisher.
- 8 Bridges. A kind of thread probably made at Bruges.

The inventory appears to have taken a long time to make, for before it was completed the churchwardens had changed twice.