

## OUR LADY OF IPSWICH.

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There are four churches in Ipswich dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and a fifth formerly existed in the parish of S. Matthew. S. Mary's Chapel was situated just outside the walls, close to the Borough or Westgate, and stood at the North West corner of the street, still known as "Lady Lane." This Chapelry was commonly called "our Lady of Grace," and became celebrated on account of an Image, and shrine of the Virgin, which acquired historical notoriety. A letter is extant, giving an account of this image, where the writer describes "our Lady's coat with two gorgets of gold to put about her neck, and an Image of our Lady of gold, in a tabernacle of silver and gilt, and a little relic of gold and crystal with our Lady's milk in it, as they say." The antiquity of this shrine is unknown, it is, however, stated that in 1297 Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward I. was married to John, Count of Holland, at the Chapel of our Lady of Ipswich. Two centuries later we find that in 1502 there is a note of a payment, in the Royal Wardrobe account, that there was delivered to Sir William Barton, priest for the offerings of the Queen to our Lady of Ippeswicke 3s. 4d. In 1515 the miraculous cure of Sir Roger Wentford's daughter was said to have been wrought before the statue of "Our Lady of Grace." Numerous pilgrimages were made to this chapel, and there is an account of one of these dated 7 September, being the

eve of the Nativity of the Virgin, when Evensong was sung in Cardinal Wolsey's College by the Dean, &c., first in S. Peter's Church, and afterwards in our Lady's Chapel. This image is mentioned in the third part of the Homily against the peril of Idolatry, by the style of "Our Lady of Ipswich." In 1538, by the special motion of Lord Cromwell, all remarkable images were commanded to be removed, and among others that of "Our Lady of Ipswich" was sent to London by sea and publicly burned.

(Fiddes' Life of Wolsey, Ellis' Orig. letters 3 Ser. III. 106. Brit. Mus. Add ms. 19,094. Harl ms. 651, art 14. f. 194 b. Gent. Mag. 1847, 25.)

The following Will from Lambeth Library furnishes an additional reference to the Chapelry of S. Mary, Ipswich, and as it has never been previously printed is here given verbatim:—

TESTAMENTUM WILLI MYNOT DE GIPPEWICO.

*In dei Noce Amen* the xx<sup>th</sup> day of the monyth of Marche In the yer of our Lord mccccxxxxviii I WILLIM MYNOT of Ippiswiche in the dioc of Norwiche beyng in hole mende make my testament in this maner and fourme first I bequethe my soule to Almighty god to oure Lady seint Mary and all seintes and my body to be bured before the chapel dore of *oure Lady of grace* beside *Willm Saye* and my said Graue to be couyd w<sup>t</sup> a stone aftre *John Gordonys* in the porche of the church of *Dedhm*. Itm I bequethe to the high auter in the church of *Dedhm* aforeseid for my tithes negligently forgotyn xv<sup>d</sup>. Itm I bequethe to the high auter of the church of *seint Mathew of Ippiswiche* xij<sup>d</sup>. Itm I bequethe to the making of a porche at *our Lady of grace* for pour pepil to sit in xl<sup>s</sup>. And in the Estwyndowe of the same in glasse I wulle have the ymages of *John Mynot* my graundfather and *Willm* and *Katerin* my father and my mother And in the West wyndowe I will have the ymages of me and my Wiffs. Itm I bequethe to *Margaret* my Wif in Wulle (wool) and corne and mony or clothe xiiij<sup>l</sup> and alle my household. Itm I bequethe to *Thoms Mynot* my sonne to be a chañon (canon) in *Xist churche* by the g<sup>ē</sup>e of God xxx<sup>s</sup> or more to pray for me and my father and alle my frendis that I am bounde to pray for Itm I bequethe to my sonne *John* whanne he comyth to the age of xxvj yeres alle my Instrumentys and stuff belonging to Weuyng (weaving) Itm I bequethe to *Willm* my sonne at ye forseid age xl<sup>s</sup> Itm I bequethe to my doutres mariage beyng on lif iiij<sup>l</sup> and if any of them dey to depart that part betwene them that

leve And these legacis to be paid w<sup>t</sup> the mony that shalle come of *John Webbe* of *Dedhm* for a certeyn place that he hathe bouthe of me in the town aforseyd before *Robert Gardeyn* for xxx<sup>li</sup> Wherof I have in gold xl<sup>s</sup> And the Residue to be paid in maner and fourme folowyng that is to say at Michelmas viij<sup>l</sup> And yerly after at the said fest v<sup>li</sup> til the fulpayment of xxx<sup>l</sup> be content Itm I wulle that an abyll prest syng at *oure lady of grace* aforesaid a trentall for my father and an other for me Itm I wulle that ther be song for me v masses of the v woundis and moreour if ther may be borne ony more cost to the porche aforeseid of my goodis I wulle it go therto for the helpe of our soulis. Itm I bequethe to my sonne *John* my grene gown Itm to *Thomas* my sonne my blewe gowne Itm to *Jamys Tonyman* my tawny gown The Residue of alle my goodis unbequethyn I put unto the disposicion of *Willm Dawys* of Ippiswiche and *Willm Myldwhate* of *Dedhm* whiche I ordeyn myn executours that they dispose for me as they think best to please God and profite the wele of my soule Wretyn the day yere and place aboveseyd.

Probatum fuit p̄ns testamentum apud Gippewicum p dom. comis. sarum &c iiij<sup>to</sup> die mens Maij Anno dni pdco ac p eundem appbatum &c at festum Nativitus sancti Johannis baptiste &c.

(Lambeth Library, Courtney, Bourgehier & Morton. Pars. II., p. 13, a. b.)