

MEDIEVAL ROOD SCREENS IN SUFFOLK: THEIR CONSTRUCTION AND PAINTING DATES

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THE INTERIOR OF the medieval parish church in Europe was dominated by the Rood, bearing the figure of the crucified Christ. In many places, including England, the Rood surmounted a screen, usually with associated loft, which together with screens in minor chapels fulfilled the role of dividing areas of sacred space.¹ Perhaps the closest Continental parallels to the British screens are to be found in Brittany.²

The screens of England and Wales have long been studied,³ and several recent regional studies betoken a reawakening of interest in them.⁴ More late medieval wooden rood screens survive in the churches of Norfolk and Suffolk than anywhere else in the country, and their figure paintings are of particular interest, in some cases influenced by contemporary European models.⁵ The screens and their imagery have been seen as evidence of the vitality of late-medieval Catholicism.⁶ The woodwork is also noteworthy,⁷ not least at Wyverstone, where, uniquely, the figures on the rood screen are carved in relief, a feature more usually associated with stalls and benches. Though the woodwork is essential to the construction of the screen and to both support and contextualise the painted images, it has received less attention than the paintings, which have a more immediate impact.

In some cases, it has been possible to use design features in the carpentry to link screens into groups as with the Norfolk examples of Buxton, Tacolneston, Fritton, Seething, Lessingham, Yelverton and Beeston S Mary.⁸ Recent research on Suffolk screens has suggested a number of links in the woodwork between screens in churches close to each other, notably Eye and Yaxley; Sudbury All Saints, Sudbury St Peter, Great Cornard, Clare and Kersey (Suffolk) and Wendens Ambo (Essex).⁹ A larger group of screens with some relationships in their carpentry has been identified, comprising¹⁰ the Norfolk churches of Rockland St Peter (originally in Tottington), Great Ellingham, Saham Toney, Barnham Broom, Welborne and Scarning, and the Suffolk churches of Langham, Risby, Stowlangtoft, Rickinghall Inferior and Great Livermere, with evidence for others, notably Pakenham.¹¹

Dating evidence, primarily drawn from late medieval wills, exists for many Norfolk screens,¹² but such evidence has only been published for a few of those screens in Suffolk.¹³ The purpose of this article is therefore to present collected documentary information for medieval Suffolk rood screens, of which some 154 survive.

Detailed contracts for making rood screens are rare, with none in Suffolk, though there is evidence for agreements at Clare and Thorington, described in their Gazetteer entries. The 1520 agreement between the parish of Great St Mary's, Cambridge, and the Suffolk carpenters Roger Bell and John Nun to make a new rood loft specified the screens of Thriplow and Gazeley as models.¹⁴ This screen no longer survives, nor does that of the chapel of St Mary-in-the-Fields in Norwich, made following a contract of 1501, which received a major bequest in a will of that year.¹⁵

Most of the evidence for making and painting these Suffolk screens arises from bequests in wills. Though this does not amount to concrete proof that the work was actually carried out,¹⁶ where both dated screens and bequests survive there is a good correlation. The one Suffolk screen bearing a date (1530) is that at Coddham, where there is a substantial bequest to making the candlebeam in a will of 1525. Similar correlations are found in Norfolk, examples being Burlingham St Andrew, Ludham, Trunch and Wellingham.¹⁷

As a new rood screen was often provided as part of a greater building campaign,¹⁸ we have given fabric bequests for a number of Suffolk churches. In several cases, such as Boxford, Bury St Mary, Clare, Combs, Glemsford and Long Melford, there is a clear association between major works and making a new rood screen, but elsewhere (e.g. Bardwell, Bungay St Mary) the new screen was installed considerably later.

The word candlebeam appears frequently in Suffolk wills, and appears to be used interchangeably with rood loft and perke, the latter being the most frequent Norfolk word (which is seldom encountered in Suffolk).¹⁹

Abbreviations

S indicates surviving screenwork.

- BW Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury Archdeaconry Court will register (IC/500/2/)
- CCA Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library, Canterbury Sede Vacante wills. (CCA/DCc/)
- ERO Essex County Record Office, Chelmsford
- IW Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich, Suffolk Archdeaconry Court will register (IC/AA2/)
- LPL Lambeth Palace Library
- NCC Norfolk Record Office, Norwich Consistory Court wills
- PCC The National Archives (TNA), Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills (PROB 11/)

Indexes for the Norwich Consistory Court, Sudbury Archdeaconry Court and Suffolk Archdeaconry Court wills are available as follows:

Index of Wills proved in the Consistory Court of Norwich, 1370–1550, Norwich, Norfolk Record Society, 16 (3 parts), 1943.

Index of the Probate Records of the Court of the Archdeacon of Suffolk 1444–1700, vols. I and II, British Record Society vols 90 and 91, 1979 and 1980 respectively.

Index of the Probate Records of the Court of the Archdeacon of Sudbury 1354–1700, vols. I and II, British Record Society, vols 95 and 96, 1984.

GAZETTEER

Akenham. 1468, 6s 8d to making a candlebeam (Thomas Heryng, IW 2/169).

Alderton. 1524, 20s to making a new rood loft with Mary and John (Edmund Blownffeld, IW 9/35).

Aldham. 1525, ‘I bequeath I will have the rood there upon the candlebeam set up higher and Mary & John and two new angels and the breast under the rood korvyn and when that is done I will have all this painted and gilt whatsoever the cost. I will have bought two standards of brass to stand in the choir and I will my executors bestow therein 40s. I will my executors shall buy four candlesticks of brass for the candlebeam, I give six kine [cows] unto the church of Aldham to keep my obit with as long as the world stand’ (Robert Clifford, PCC 11/22).

S. Bardwell. 1498, 20s to candlebeam (Thomas Cage, BW 13/89); 1503, 20s to making new candlebeam (John Doo, BW 12/55); 1503, 6s 8d to the new candlebeam (Robert Banyard, BW 13/138); 1504, 20s to paint candlebeam (William Seffrey, BW 13/112).

Fabric bequests: The main building campaign at Bardwell seems to predate the candlebeam by some while, viz: 1409, 6s 8d to the fabric of the tower (Reginald Payn, BW 1/124); 1440, to

the new work of the church, 3s 4d; to the new work of the church all the mass pence coming from the brothers and sisters of the guild of St Peter (John North, BW 9/13); 1454, 20s to buying lead (to the 'emendation' of the church) (William Atherene, BW 9/177); 1460, 2s to reparation of the porch (William Inghland, BW 9/246). The roof bears the date 1421.²⁰

S. Barking. 1464, 5 marks to the reparation of the rood loft, viz: '*ad imaginis Crucifixi ste me s Johis Evangelisti & duobz Archangelorum*' (John Cole, IW 2/152).

Fabric bequest: 1473, 15s 8d to a fodder of lead (sign of roofing) (John Flegg, IW 2/284).

Barnby. 1524, 6s 8d to gild perke (William Seman, IW 9/59).

S. Barningham. 1469, 3 acres of land at 'Alfatysmer' to be sold to aid the making of the new beam called [the] 'candlebem' in the said church (Adam Berweham, BW 10/454).

Fabric bequests: 1431, 10s to tower (Robert Meller, NCC Surflete 71); 1439, 3s 4d to tower (Mary Onge, BW 9/23); 1440, 8s 8d to new tower (John Agas, BW 9/29).

S. Bedfield. The screen is inscribed on the north side to 'Elys and Isabella (i.e. Elizabeth) his wife'; on the south side to 'Robert Mayhew and Robert and Alicia Din'.

Bequests: 1522, 6s 8d towards painting the candlebeam (Elizabeth Kerych, IW 8/268); 1529, 26s 8d towards gilding the candlebeam (John Elyse (he had a wife named Elizabeth), IW 10/43). Robert Din may refer to Robert Denny, whose will of 1533 was proved in 1535 (IW 12/63).

Benhall. 1525, 6s 8d to paint candlebeam (Alice Houteman, IW 9/68).

S. Blythburgh. 1506, reference to two archangels with rood group (John Wulsy, IW 4/226). *Terminus ante quem* for screen and rood.

Fabric bequests: 1442, 20 marks to fabric of chancel if they wish to rebuild (John Greyve, IW 1/1). Further bequests to chancel continue to 1478, e.g. 1463 to glazing a window on the south side of the new chancel (John Aleyn, IW 2/62).

Boxford. 1494, 9 marks to 'reparation' of rood loft (John Ffen, BW 13/71); 1496, 4 marks to new rood loft (John Glaswk, BW 13/96); 1502, 40s to new candlebeam (Anne Smith, BW 12/62); 1504, 5 marks 'to the payntyng of the new candellbeme' (Richard Smyth, PCC 14/329); 1515, 20s to the 'gyldyng of the rodeloft' (John Clerk, PCC 18/146); 1515, 5 marks to painting of the rood loft (John King, PCC 18/212); 1517, £6 13s 4d to painting the rood loft (Henry Steruppe, PCC 18/536).

Fabric bequests: 1469, 6s 8d to new porch; 6s 8d '*ad opus le ele de novo ibm edificand*' (Robert Wasscher, BW 10/450); 1476, buried in new porch, and leaves 40s to its reparation (William Cowper, BW 11/133); 1496, 'new ye' referred to (John Glaswk, BW 13/96).

Bradfield. 1500, bequest to make new images on rood beam (Alex Syr, NCC Cage 141). There is no internal evidence identifying the precise Bradfield parish.

S. Bramfield. No bequests to screen.

Fabric bequest: 1509, 'to the reparation of Bramfield church 4 pecs tymber ther beyng and 33s 4d in money unto the seelyng of the said church' (Edmond Clerke (of Walberswick), NCC Spyltymber 7) (Figs 77–78).²¹

Bredfield. 1558, 6s 8d to the rood loft (Robert Hoye, rector, NCC Jerves 325). Will made on 19 August; Mary I died on 17 November 1558, so this bequest may not have been executed.

Bromeswell. 1526, 6s 8d to gild candlebeam (Robert Marsh, IW 6/133).

S. Brundish. 1495, 40s to paint new candlebeam (Roger Brodhok of Horham, NCC Typpes 93); 1504, 20s reparation of candlebeam (William Baldry, IW 4/142); 1506, 13s 4d to paint candlebeam (William Goche, IW 5/6); 1507, 20s paint candlebeam (John Nycoll, IW 6/13); 1509, 3s 4d paint candlebeam (Henry Crokelyng, IW 5/120).

Bungay St Mary. 1500, 10s to candlebeam (Thomas Skete, NCC Craford 87); 1500, £10 to candlebeam (Thomas Chapelyn, NCC Cage 144); 1503, 'toward the gilding of the newe perke which shall stand in the said churche xxs' (Richard Welles, NCC Spyltymber 85); 1504, 16d



FIG. 77 – Bramfield rood screen (photo: Lucy Wrapson).

to sustain and emend rood loft (John Bothe, IW 4/90); 1504, 6s 8d to making new perke (John Jaye, NCC Ryxe 133); 1508, ‘Itm I will that myn executors paye to the gildyng of the candilbeme ... for to pray for the sowlys of Thomas Skete and Thomas Smyth as soon as it may conveniently be don iij li. ii s. viij d.’ (Richard Hunne, IW 5/70).

Fabric bequests: the tower is mentioned in nine wills of 1441–73, e.g. 1444, 20s to new tower (Reginald Cakebread, NCC Wylby 17); 1473, 2s to new tower (John Beton, NCC Hubert 37); 1457, 3s 4d to paint the image of St Christopher (Roger Copping, NCC Neve 41); 1460, 8d to making new image of St Christopher (John Hyll, NCC Brosyard 197); 1461, 20d to painting the reredos of the high altar and 12d to painting the new image of blessed Mary called ‘le pytee’ (Elene Couple, NCC Brosyard 243); 1462, 20d to painting the reredos of the high altar (John Skeet, IW 2/72).

Bures. 1442, 20s to make new candlebeam (John Wendens, NCC Doke 183).

S. Burgate. 1474, 6s 8d to make rood loft (William Underwood, BW 10/552); 1496, 6s 8d paint candlebeam (John Wareys, BW 13/90).

Burgh by Grundisburgh. 1508, 13s 4d to make candlebeam (Robert Broke, IW 5/29); 1525, 13s 4d to make new candlebeam (Thomas Aterold, IW 9/70).

S. Burstall. 1515, 3s 4d to rood loft (Thomas Hawys, IW, 7/131).

S. Bury St Mary. 1436, 1 mark to make new rood sollar (*solari crucifixi*) (Edmund Ocle, BW 1/223).

Fabric bequests: 1393, 20d to the work of the tower, and 12d to the new retable (tabula) of the high altar (Lawrence Goldyng, BW 1/70); 3 more bequests to the tower follow up to a 1397 bequest, 6s 8d to tower (Alice Abbot, BW 1/88); 1424, £10 to building new church



FIG. 78 – Detail of St Matthew,
Bramfield rood screen
(photo: Lucy Wrapson).



FIG. 79 – Dado tracery head from
Thomas Gooch's workshop, rood screen,
Clare (photo: Lucy Wrapson).

(John Pyrye, BW 1/175); 1425, £10 to paving and making new church (John Bowre, BW 1/174); four wills of 1432–33 refer to the new church, e.g. 1432, 3s 4d to new building (John Gurney, BW 1/203); 1437, £20 towards building new porches (John Nottingham, BW 1/245); 1443, 5 marks to making battlements (Thomas Hyne, BW 2/10).

S. *Butley*. 1465, 3s 4d, *fabrica partico* (John Kenn, IW 2/156).

Capel St Mary. 1525, £3 6s 8d to gilding rood loft and candlebeam (Robert Skete, IW 9/119). Fabric bequests: 1508, 20s to the reparation of the 'body of the church' (Robert Hawtyn, IW 5/56); 1509, 20s to the 'byldyng of the church of capell' (John Parstall, IW 5/103).

Carlton by Kelsale. 1500, 10 marks to the new candlebeam (William Peche, IW 4/51).

S. *Charsfield*. 1515, 33s 4d to paint candlebeam (Edm. Goolde, IW 7/84).

Chelmondiston. 1528, 6s 8d to gild the candlebeam (William Harries, IW 10/11). Fabric bequest: 1509, making 'stolys' (John Hayle, IW 5/94).

S. *Chilton*. 1500, income from tenements over six years to provide for 'the making of a roodloft and the stools in the church of Chilton' after the discretion of his executors (Robert Crane (of Waldingfield Hall), CCA-DCC-Register/F 118–19).²²

S. *Clare*. 1462, 20 marks to making a new vault before the cross (Richard Pumpey als Tylney, NCC Brosyard 286); 1465, £10 to rood loft (Agnes Hucton, BW 10/394); 1466, 10 marks to rood loft (John Hengystman, BW 11/27); 1478, make new rood loft after the pattern churchwardens order, indenture made between them and Thomas Goche, carver of Sudbury (John Horold, PCC 6/35); 1502, £5 to paint and gild candlebeam before the rood (John Fen, CCA-DCC-Register/F 169 D).

Fabric bequests: the 1465 will of Agnes Hucton also makes a bequest of 5 marks to new benches; 1478, 2s 6d to fabric of new chancel (Walter White, BW 11/154) (Fig. 79).

Claydon. 1465, 3s 4d reparation of rood loft (John Taylor, IW 2/151).

Cockfield. 1469, 13s 4d reparation of candlebeam (Henry Halle, BW 10/467); 1483, 3s 4d to 'the steyer making of the rodelofte' (Henry Hyldereyd, BW 11/316).

S. Coddenham. 1525, 'Item I geve and bequeath to the candilbeme ... toward the making xls' (Joan (Johanne) Coke, IW 9/153). Related bequest: 1528, 'I will have a tapyr of waxe of the valor of iijs iiijd to brenne before the rodelofte as long as it will endure' (Joan Boor, IW 10/27). Screen bears date 1530.

S. Combs. 1462, 20d to new candlebeam (John Jour, BW 10/414); 1472, 12d to the making of the steps by which to get onto the beam of the candleloft (*per quos ascendetur super trabem candelabrum*) (Nicholas Rodys, BW 10/463); 1488, 40s paint candlebeam (John Sparke, BW 11/397); 1488, 6s 8d paint candlebeam (Robert Bole, BW 11/403).

Fabric bequests: 1447, 20s to new aisle (John Hasard, IW 1/56); 1448, 6s 8d to making of a window in the aisle of the Holy Trinity (John Adgor, BW 9/130); 1449, 12d to the making of an aisle (Ed. Dryver, BW 9/138); 1472, 12d towards new window in east end of south part, 12d (Nicholas Rodys, BW 10/463).

S. Cookley. 1532, bequest toward a new candlebeam (John Cary, NCC Alpe 25–27).

Corton. 1504, 20s to paint candlebeam (Henry Barker, IW 4/207); 1506, 40s paint perke (Edmund Hustyngge, IW 5/9); 1509, 6s 8d to gild candlebeam (Joan Clerk, IW 5/154).

Cotton. 1485, 3s 4d to the reparation of the new candlebeam (John Grene, BW 11/344).

Fabric bequests: 1471, bequest made to the reparation and building of the new roof of Cotton church of a close called Garlekis in Cotton (Thomas Cook, BW 10/700); 1477, bequest to seating (*novo scabelle* = bench/stool) (Richard Thurbern, BW 11/172).

Covehithe. 1501, bequest to painting 'Marye and John by the crucifyxe ovyr the candilbeme' (Beatrice Bekker, NCC Multon 126).²³

Cransford. 1513, 20s to candlebeam (John Derneford, IW 7/45).

S. Cratfield. 1460, 6s 8d to paint candlebeam (John Flyntard, IW 2/53); 1461, 40s. to the candlebeam (John Fyn, NCC Brosyard 258).

Creting St Peter. 1505, bequest to carve and gild new rood, Mary and John (Robert Reydon, NCC Ryxe 243).²⁴

Dallinghoo. 1508, 6s 8d to paint candlebeam (Robert Ffoldyk, IW 5/62); 1508, 13s 4d to paint Dallinghoo candlebeam (Robert Arnold (of Rendham), IW 5/74); 1510, to paint candlebeam (John Emfry, IW 5/162).

S. Denston. No fabric bequests, but bequest in 1472, 20s to buying and the preparation of a new image of St Nicholas (William Wyburgh, BW 10/579). This suggests that building work was complete. College founded by John Denston, who d. in 1473 or 1474. Patent letters issued for the chantry in 1475.²⁵

Dunwich St Peter. 1515, 20d to rood (Agnes Scharparow, IW 7/92).

Fabric bequest: 1512, 6s 8d to new building of chancel (Robert Sharperew, IW 5/296).

Earl Stonham. 1526, 6s 8d to rood loft (Matilde Waters, IW 6/133).

Easton Bavents. 1473, 20s make candlebeam (John Cooke, NCC Hubert 32).

Edwardstone. 1462, wishes to be buried in new aisle and leaves £3 to a new parclose (Thomas Cros, BW 9/339); 1465, 12s to the making of the image of the new cross, and for the painting of that cross and image (Agnes Bogays, BW 10/417).

S. Elmswell. 1447, fragmentary bequest to the painting of the image of ... on the perk(?) (rood?) (Alice Bakere, BW 9/86).

S. Eye. 1504, to the 'medylpanne' of the new candlebeam in which shall stand an image of Our Lord if it may be borne (Joan Busby alias Surgeon, NCC Garnon 16); 1514, £3 to gilding



FIG. 80 – St Ursula on the rood screen at Eye
(photo: Lucy Wrapson).

candlebeam (Thomas Eyir, PCC 18/8); 1516, to painting the candlebeam as much money as will gild one pane wholly (William Seman, NCC Briggs 231). The loft bears the name of a donor, John Gold.

Fabric bequests: money was left for the tower between 1453 (6s 8d to reparation of the tower (John Grey, NCC Aleyn 191)) and 1469 (40s to the reparation of the new tower of Eye church (John Carment, BW 10/431)). 1487, 10 marks to new glass window in the east or in the new aisle on the south side of the church (Sir John Sulyard, PCC 8/21); 1487, 20 marks to pammenting of the church with marble (John Cullyng, BW 11/ 376); 1501, executors to make a chapel in the worship of Sancta Maria de Populo within the same churchyard, ((Sir) John Porter, priest, NCC Popy 59 and 80) (later wills make it clear this was in the church); 1516, 40s to the leading of the church of Eye (William Seman, NCC Briggs 231) (Fig. 80).

Eyeke. 1511, a cow to the candlebeam (Thomas Fowler, IW 5/213).

Falkenham. 1496, 10s paint candlebeam (Richard Maryt, IW 3/197); 1496, 20s to candlebeam (John Margause, IW 4/8); 1526, 20s to ceiling above the candlebeam (John Cook, NCC Grundisburgh 175 (also in IW 6/51)).

Felixstowe St Peter. 1509, bequest to paint candlebeam (Robert Coolkempte, IW 5/101); 1526, bequest to paint rood loft (William Fflynte, IW 6/121).

Flowton. 1510, 6s 8d to paint candlebeam (John Ryver, IW 5/190).

Fabric bequest: 1526, 13s 4d ‘toward the making of a new ruff’, (John Rever, IW 6/139).

S. Fressingfield. 1449, 10 marks to paint rood loft (Elizabeth Brown, NCC Wylby 37).

Fabric bequests: 1487, 13s 4d to the reparation of the roof ‘when they repair it new’ (Robert Fix, NCC A Caston 330); 1511, 10 marks to building ‘ile’ on the north side of chancel (John Bohn, NCC Johnson 61).

Glensford. 1462, 6s 8d to new crucifix (James Sweyn, BW 10/358); 1466, 6s 8d to paint rood (John Fuller, BW 10/390).

Fabric bequests: 1447, 40s to make window on south side (Thomas Ffrothe, BW 9/77); 1454, executors to make new window on north side (John Baxter, BW 9/175); 1474, bequest to make clerestory windows on the south side (Richard Roote, BW 11/114); 1474, 6s 8d '*fabrico corpus ecclie*' (John Holden, NCC Harsyk 563).

S. *Gosbeck*. 1523, 13s 4d to paint candlebeam (Margaret Harman, IW 9/8).

Great Bricett. 1519, 'I give & bequeath toward the heytynng off the candelbeme' 20s. (William Haddock, IW 9/1).

Great Glemham. 1473, bequest to make candlebeam (Robert Knytes, NCC Hubert 32).

Hartest. 1447, 'to the making of the rode loft in the church of Hartest all the debt that Robert Wellys of Hartest owes me for some years back, by estimation 13s 4d and more' (Thomas Struth, BW 9/101).

Haughley. 1537, 'I geve to the gyldyng of the ij angels on the candelbeme xxvjs viijd And more yf need be' ((Syr) Robert Cooke, vicar, BW 20/24).²⁶

Haverhill. 1439, make vice to rood loft (William Claydon, BW 9/5).

S. *Hawkedon*. 1472, 'to the crucifix Mary and John (*crucifixio Marieque Johanne*)' of Hawkedon, 6s 8d (Thomas Howton, BW 10/534).

Fabric bequests: 1452, 10s to bells to be newly bought (John Hucton, BW 9/153); 1472, 13s 4d to buying a new bell (John Andrew, BW 10/577); 1505, 5 marks to 'ledyng' and 'sealing' (William Coksall, BW 13/162).

S. *Hawstead*. 1477, '*ad depiccoem de le rodeloft ... xijs*' (Thomas Pye, BW 11/129).

Helmingham. 1497, 5 marks to paint rood loft (John Holme, NCC Typpes 136).

Henstead. 1500, 20s to paint '*pulpiti voc perke*' (Robert Bandees, NCC Cage 206).

Heveningham. 1522, executors to pay £20 to the church of Heveningham towards a 'candilbeme' (Robert Dowsing als Smith, IW 9/145).

Fabric bequest: 56s 8d towards the leading of Heveningham church in that same will.

S. *Hollesley*. 1487, 6s 8d to paint rood beam (*trabem crucifixi*) (John Warde, IW 3/68); 1504, 5 marks to paint the candlebeam (Christian Gernon, IW 4/215).

(*Great*) *Horringer*. 1485, £10 to new rood loft of Horringer church (William Edward, BW 11/333).

Fabric bequests: 1464, 6s 8d to porch new made (Simon Custe, BW 10/335); 1470, 20s to reparation of porch (Walter Noble, BW 10/447).

Huntingfield. 1510, John Wade to paint candlebeam (also two tabernacles and three other images) (Robert Barker, NCC Spyltymber 303).

Iken. 1500, 13s 4d to paint rood, Mary and John (John Comberland, IW 4/17).

S. *Ilkeshall St Andrew*. 1491, '*ad pictura facienda ... ihu cristi cora crucifix*' (John Bungay, IW 3/120).

Ipswich St Clement. 1472, 4s to candlebeam before the great cross (Nicholas Swan, IW 2/280); 1473, £4 to making candlebeam (John Byles, NCC Hubert 59); 1476, 6s 8d to making candlebeam (Thomas Bower, IW 2/297).

Ipswich St Margaret. 1453, 10s to new candlebeam (Galf. Shryd, IW 1/128); 1453, 6s 8d to new rood beam (Robert Cady, IW 2/79); 1454, 20s to new candlebeam (William Selnett, IW 1/705); 1479, 20s to make cross on candlebeam (Thomas Medewe, IW 3/38).

Ipswich St Mary Le Tower. 1470, 40s to new candlebeam (Robert Smyth, IW 2/222).

S. *Ipswich St Matthew*. 1494, 13s 4d to paint the candlebeam when they begin to work (John Mey, IW 3/158).

Ipswich St Nicholas. 1447, bequest '*ad opus*' candlebeam (Robert Forthe, IW 1/56).

Fabric bequest: 1473, 40s to leading south side of church (Nicholas Burston, IW 2/300).

Ipswich St Stephen. 1508, 1 comb of wheat and 2 combs of malt to paint candlebeam (Robert Rede, IW 5/51).

S. *Ixworth*. 1490, 10 marks to paint candlebeam (John Leman, BW 13/116); 1496, 10 marks to paint north side of candlebeam (John Gentyman, BW 13/45).

S. *Kersey*. 1463, 15 marks to paint the candlebeam (John Puske, BW 10/337). Fabric bequests: 1430, first bequest to tower '*ad opus nove campanile de Kersey xls*' (Robert Sket, chaplain, NCC Surflete 54); 1434, 6s 8d to building the tower (William Tye, NCC Surflete 161); 1443, 20s to bells, 20s '*pur le battlement*' (Robert Kent of Stowmarket, BW 9/70); 1445, 20s to the building of the tower '*pur le batelement*' (John Gybbe, BW 9/70b); 1446, 6s 8d to bells (Rose Waryn, BW 9/84); 1447, 10 marks to new bell (John Pusk, BW 9/85); 1454, £4 to bell (John Sybry, NCC Neve 47); 1464, Indulgence granted by Pope Pius II to those giving alms for the enlargement and restoration of the church.²⁷

Kessingland. 1467, 13s 4d to paint 1 pane of the candlebeam (Margery Whyte, IW 2/196).

S. *Langham*. 1464, 'a cow to find a light on le candylbeme' (Robert Shukford, BW 10/ 371).

S. *Lavenham*. 1520, £100 to candlebeam (and £40 to building of steeple) (Agnes Sexten, PCC Aylofffe 31).

Fabric bequests: 1486, 300 marks to building of bell tower (Thomas Spring II, PCC 19/25); 1498, £10 to new making and reparation of church (Thomas Braunche, PCC 11/32); 1502, £10 to new building of the church (Joan Sexton, PCC 13/20); 1506, burial in the new aisle (Agnes Braunche, PCC 15/23); 1513, £20 towards the making of the aisles of Lavenham church (13th Earl of Oxford, PCC 17/11); 1523, £200 to finishing of steeple (Thomas Spring III, PCC 21/11) (executors spent a further £847 on the church and its furnishings).²⁸

S. *Laxfield*. 1472, 5 marks to the painting of the candlebeam (William Markaunt, IW 2/244).

Fabric bequests: bequests to the tower occur between 1444 (£10 to fabric of new tower (Godfrey Kempe, IW 1/10)) and 1476 (6s 8d to making tower (Hugh Arteys, IW 2/332)). The Seven Sacrament font is described as new in 1503 (3s 4d to painting new font (Simon Cowper, IW 4/88)) whilst lead was left for the chapel of Our Lady in 1506 (Robert Dowsyng, NCC Ryxe 339); 1510, 13s 4d to a glass window (William Sancroft, IW 5/244); 1510 to 'the pathing of Mowbillston in the church' (John Fiske, NCC Coppinger 72); 1516 'the porch to be pammented with such stone as lieth between the steeple and the font' (William Smythe, IW 7/155).

S. *Layham*. 1441, 3s 4d to paint rood loft (Thomas Palmer, BW 9/36).

Levington. 1524, bequest to reparation of the rood loft (Thomas Hill, IW 9/40).

S. *Lindsey*. 1462, 20s to the candlebeam before the crucifix (William Grene, BW 9/292).

Little Waldingfield. 1458, 20s to the painting of the candlebeam called 'rodeloft' (John Sheldrake, BW 9/238).

S. *Little Whelnetham*. 1538, £9 to the painting of the rood loft in 'Lyttell Whelton' (Clement Ladyman, BW 20/59).

S. *Long Melford*. 1487, £10 to paint rood loft (John Farman, BW 11/390).

Fabric bequests: 1467, 6s 8d to the new fabric of the church, now begun (John Brokhole, BW 10/420); 1469, £10 to new fabric of church (Robert Sparrow, BW 10/576). Construction of nave 1460–95; chancel 'advanced if not finished' by 1479.²⁹

S. *Lound*. 1502, bequest to gild rood beam (Alice Man, NCC Popy 144).³⁰

Market Weston. 1460, 40d to candlebeam to be newly made (Matilda Crask, BW 9/251).

Marlesford. 1473, 40s to make new candlebeam (John Coppyng, NCC Hubert 33).

S. *Mettingham*. 1473, 6s 8d to paint the candlebeam (John Shuddey, NCC Hubert 3).

Mildenhall. The churchwardens' accounts record the following payments: 1505, 8s given by the vicar, Paul Geyton, towards painting the canopy above the rood; 1505–6, the 'alabaster man' was paid £1 6s 2d to paint the rood loft; 1506–7, £1 9s 0d was spent on painting the rood loft.³¹

Monewden. 1474, 13s 4d to the new beam [*trabis*] to be made (John Dey, NCC Hubert 64); 1483, 33s 4d to the candlebeam of the same church (John Halle, IW 3/15); 1487, £5 to the candlebeam in Monewden church (John Fayrefax, 'parson', NCC Wolman 6).

S. *Newbourne.* 1516, 6s 8d to paint candlebeam (Robert Downs, IW 7/159).

S. *Offton.* 1515, bequest to paint 'half candlebeme' (Richard Takon, IW 7/86).

Old Newton. 1457, bequest to paint candlebeam and roof, to make celures over the altars of St John and St Mary of Pity; also boards to be provided for a reredos at the back of the crucifix (*unum reredos ad dorsum crucifixi*) (John Jenowr, BW 9/187).

Fabric bequests: 1444, bequest to the church of 'eldenewton' towards new roof (*novo tectu*) (William Friend, NCC Wylby 25); 1471, 3s 4d to reparation of a buttress on north side of church (William Kevyll, BW 10/495).

Peasehall. 1508, 13s 4d to paint the candlebeam (Amys Alard, IW 5/51).

Rede. 1469, 20s to make candlebeam (Thomas Potter, BW 10/433).

Rickinghall Superior. 1448, 6s 8d to new candlebeam (John Rampoly, BW 9/142).

Ringshall. 1511, bequest to paint candlebeam (John Scott, IW 5/259).

S. *Risby.* 1436, 2 marks to make new rood solar (*solari crucifixi*) (Edmund Ocle, BW 1/223).

Rougham. 1498, 10 marks to make candlebeam (Edmund Stantion, BW 4/63).

Shimpling. 1485, 13s 4d to fabric of rood loft (Simon Pryke, BW 11/329).

Sizewell. 1476, 40s reparation of rood loft (William Baste, IW 2/321).

S. *Somersham.* 1516, 40d to rood loft (John Blacksaule, IW 7/153).

Somerton. 1479, 29s 4d to the new solar called the rood loft (William Cobbe, BW 12/4).

S. *South Elmham St Margaret.* 1509, 10s for new candlebeam (Thomas Brend, NCC Spyltymber 174).

South Elmham St Peter. 1510, 5 marks for new rood loft (John Tasburgh, NCC Spyltymber 322).

S. *Southwold.* 1459, £20 to making the new candlebeam (John Colton or Golcorn, IW 2/30); 1459, 20s 'ad trabem' (John Taylour, IW 2/14); 1461, 20d 'ad factur particu' (William Grantham, IW 2/67); 1470, 22s to decorate rood (Robert Scolys, NCC Betyns 83); 1474, paint reredos behind rood (i.e. tympanum) (Thomas Sewell, NCC Gilberd 28); 1481, 40s to painting candlebeam (Henry Burgese, IW 3/2).

Fabric bequests: 1456, £20 to building tower (John Busshop, NCC Brotyard 13); 1470, bequest of tiles to work of church, also an alabaster *tabula*, a vestment for requiems (Robert Scolys, NCC Betyns 83) (Figs 81–82).

Sproughton. 1520, 20s to gild rood loft (John Flogate, IW 6/26).

Stoke by Clare. 1475, 20s to new rood loft (John Dyke, BW 11/60); 1476, 20s to new rood loft (Richard Whyte, BW 11/62); 1477, 13s 4d to making a new solar, called 'le Rodlofte' to be newly made (Agnes Dyke [widow of John above], BW 10/586).

Fabric bequest: 1477 Agnes Dyke leaves 13s 4d to provision of new stools.

S. *Stoke by Nayland.* 1476, 6s 8d to paint rood loft (John Joye, BW 11/60); 1476, 6s 8d to paint rood loft (Adam Gunning, BW 11/61); 1500, 4s to paint candlebeam (Robert Fynche, BW 13/131).

Stowmarket St Mary. 1491, 10 marks to make new candlebeam (John Key, BW 13/99).

Stratford St Andrew. 1545, bequest to the 'ceiling of the candlebeam', Richard Fryer, IW 15/235).

S. *Stratford St Mary.* 1500, make and paint 'a new crucifix upon the candelbeme with Mary and John and archaungyllis after dedham'. Any residual money from the sale of plate to go to painting the candlebeam (John Beylham, PCC 12/13).

Fabric bequests: 1467, 35 marks towards making an aisle (John Smith, PCC 5/25); 1501,

LEFT:
FIG. 81 – Angels on
the north side screen
at Southwold,
(photo: Lucy Wrapson).

RIGHT:
FIG. 82 – St James the
Less and St Thomas on
the rood screen at
Southwold
(photo: Lucy Wrapson).



burial in north aisle he made new, 'residue to building the body of the church in Stratford as in making of the cleristery with windows and glasing convenient to the rofe of the same' (Thomas Mors, CCA-DCC-Register/F 157 B; see also NCC Cage 203); 1510, 40s towards making porch (Margaret Mors, PCC 16/35); 1523, 3s 4d to making porch (John Norcott, IW 9/6); 1526, executors to make up north aisle in same form as other aisle on south side (Edward Mors, PCC 22/14).

S. *Sudbury St Gregory*. 1457, 20s to paint candlebeam (William Herward, BW 9/217).

S. *Sutton*. 1506, 2s to paint crucifix (Thomas Marsh, IW 5/132).

Swilland. 1502, 53s 4d to new candlebeam (Thomas Pitte, IW 4/111).

S. *Thorington*. Agreement c. 1460 between Henry Chestan, churchwarden of Thorington, and William Alcock, a carpenter from Blythburgh, that Alcock would place a candlebeam in Thorington church for under £3.³²

Thorndon. 1511, to the making of the 'rodeloft' or the churchwork (Joan Haywode, BW original will IC 500/19/35); 1523, 6s 8d to the making of a candlebeam (William Busshop, NCC Briggs 133); 1526, 6s to making of the new rood loft to be paid in the 3 years that the carver is in making thereof (Robert Clerke, NCC Briggs 227);³³ 1528, 6s 8d to the making of the new candlebeam (John Schorth, BW 18/30); 1530, 5 marks to the painting of the candlebeam in Thorndon church (William Chuttoke, NCC Attmere 142).

Thorpe Morieux. 1465, 'the debts that I owe[d] to John Pypere my father ... to dispose for the said John's soul, as in making a new *candelabro* [candlebeam] in the said church' (Thomas Pypere, BW 10/382); 1480, 3s 4d to paint candlebeam (Robert Thurmod, BW 11/274); 1481, 4 marks to paint candlebeam (John Chastyng, BW 11/249).

Thorpe St Peter. 1507, 20s paint candlebeam (John Nycoll, IW 6/13).

Trimley St Mary. 1487, 3s 4d to new construction of candlebeam (John Rycheman, IW 3/67); 1488, 20s to new build candlebeam (William Forthe, IW 3/69).

S. *Troston*. 1459, 6s 8d to 'le candlebem' to be newly made (Matilda Rountun, BW 9/234).

Tuddenham St Mary. 1530, 3s 4d to make rood loft (John Whyte, BW 19/16).

S. *Walberswick*. 1498, candlebeam called new, and 1499 make vice to rood loft;³⁴ 1524, 'I geve to the makyng off a candlebeme off oure ladys chapell £3' (Thomas Church, IW 9/32). Fabric bequests: tower contract 1426; bequest to new tower, 1432 (Thomas Bangot, NCC Surflete 89); bequests to new aisles from 1473 (John Stevenson, NCC Hubert 43) to 1512 (Thomas Chapell, IW 7/157); apparently south aisle came first as a will of 1509 (John Blythburgh, NCC Multon 122) refers to new 'ele upon the north syde'. 1512, 15 marks to church roof and £6 13s 4d to 'making of the chauncell' (Robert Poty, NCC Fetyplace 17); 1515, bequest to make new chancel (John Blokke, IW 7/157).

S. *Walsham le Willows*. 1441, bequest to new rood beam (John Brock, BW 9/31); 1448, 6s 8d to make new rood beam (John Cowper, BW 9/140).

Fabric bequest: 1465, 6s 8d to the carpentry work (*opus carpentarii*) of Walsham church and [amount not stated] towards glazing a clerestory window (John Swyftt, BW 9/258).

Wenhaston. 1489, 12d to the new candlebeam (John Townsende, IW 3/84). This gives a good *terminus post quem* for the Doom. The Doom would have been constructed as part of the same campaign as the rood screen and within a very short space of time, as its style indicates (Fig. 83).³⁵

S. *Westhall*. The screen there bears the inscriptions: '... Margaret his wife. Pray for the soul of Thomas Felton' and 'Pray for the soul of Richard Love and the good estate of Margaret Alen widow who [had this made]'. Richard Love's will was written in 1509, probate granted in 1512 (NCC Johnson 214).³⁶

Weston. 1465, 40s to new rood beam (Thomas Muryell, NCC Cobald 83).

Whepstead. 1482, 6s 8d to rood loft (John Smyth, BW 11/281).



ABOVE: FIG. 83

Originally over the chancel arch, the Wenhaston Doom shows the ghosts of the rood cross and figures (photo: Edward Martin).

S. *Wingfield*. 1452, 2s to new candlebeam (John Deye, IW 1/174); 1456, 20d to candlebeam (Thomas Cork, IW 1/164).

Fabric bequest: 1450, 13s 4d to making porch (John Bury, IW 1/161). The collegiate church was extended c. 1430.³⁷

S. *Woodbridge*. 1448, £10 to paint rood group (John Albred, IW 1/52); 1456, 6s 8d to paint new screen (Galf. Hyll, NCC Neve 23); 1458, 10 marks to paint candlebeam (Agnes Albred, IW 2/21).

S. *Woolpit*. 1466, 20 marks (£13 6s 8d) to make a candlebeam (*trabem candelarum*) (William Geoffrey, NCC Betyns 80).

Fabric bequests: 1420, 12d to fabric of nave (Richard Howden, NCC Hyrnyng 67); 1430, 5 marks to '*fabrico porticus*' (John Brumpton, rector, NCC Surflete 66); 1439, 13s 4d to fabric of new porch (John Turner, BW



RIGHT: FIG. 84

The Annunciation on the rood screen at Wyverstone



FIG. 85 – The rood screen at Yaxley
(photo: Lucy Wrapson).



FIG. 86 – St Mary Magdalene on the rood screen at Yaxley (photo: Lucy Wrapson).

9/10); 1442, 2s to porch (John Welde, BW 9/49); 1442, 20s to emend new porch (John Petyr, NCC Doke 205); 1444, ‘Also I beqwethe to ye body of ye same church xxd’ (John Walsham, BW 9/54); 1451, 13s 4d to building new porch (John Stevynesson, BW 9/105); 1451, 6s 8d to building new porch (Margaret Koo, BW 9/132); 1462, 13s 4d to emend church on north side (John Skepper, BW 10/317); 1473, £20 to five statues (to fill niches) in new porch (Robert Lynton, NCC Gelour 93); 1477, 20s to paint image of Our Lady of Pity (Amy Fen, BW 11/158); 1500, 10 marks to making the north aisle if William Abrey of Woolpit makes it within 2 years (John Cooke, NCC Cage 42); 1501, ‘the stooll weche I did make colored & garnysed wt scallopys and other signs of St James’ (John Bawde, BW 13/136).

S. (*Great*) *Worlingham*, 1509, 26s 8d to paint and gild candlebeam (William Lybberd, IW 5/154); 1510, 10s to gild perke (John Premar, IW 5/194).

Wrentham. 1464, bequest to new candlebeam (Robert Idle, IW 2/135).

S. *Wyverstone*. 1491, £5 towards making new candlebeam (Henry Munnynge, NCC Types 59) (Fig. 84).³⁸

S. *Yaxley*. No known bequests to the screen or its paintings, but the design of the structure closely resembles the woodwork of the screen at Eye and is therefore likely to date to the start of the 16th century. (Figs 85–86).

Yoxford. 1503, 6s 8d to edify rood loft (John Baldwin, IW 4/111); 1509, 20s reparation of rood loft (Richard Payn, IW 5/107).

Fabric bequests: 1499, bequests to his son and two daughters, if they die then such money should go to the making of a new aisle in Yoxford church; residue of goods and chattels largely to that same cause (William Drane, LPL, Reg. Morton 2/57);³⁹ 1524, 10s to leading Yoxford church (Agnes Noloth, IW 9/28); 1525, 20s to leading church, Thomas Brome, IW 9/92).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Particular thanks are due to staff, past and present, in the Record Offices in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Norwich, for their assistance, not least in producing documents. Other researchers, especially the late Peter Northeast, have generously shared their discoveries and views. Peter transcribed the wills in the two volumes of Suffolk Archdeaconry Court Register ‘Baldwyne’ (Northeast 2001; Northeast and Falvey 2010).

NOTES

- 1 Kroesen and Steensma 2004, esp. 173–237.
- 2 Pelletier 1986.
- 3 Bond 1908; Vallance 1936.
- 4 Baker 2011; Wheeler 2006; Williams 2008.
- 5 Baker 2011; Mitchell 2000, 365–80.
- 6 Duffy 2012, 55–82.
- 7 Baker 2011, 99–102.
- 8 Baker 2011, 213.
- 9 Howson 2009, 56–60.
- 10 Howson 2009, 52–55.
- 11 L.J. Wrapson, unpublished results.
- 12 Cotton 1987, 44–54.
- 13 Cotton 1987, 53; Middleton-Stewart 2001, 225–33.
- 14 Harvey 1984, 19, 219.
- 15 Cotton 1987, 50; NRO, MS 9712 8F2.
- 16 Cattermole 2008, 36.
- 17 Cotton 1987, 47, 49, 52.
- 18 Baker 2011; Cotton 1987, 45.
- 19 Baker 2011, 91–96; Cotton 1987, 53.
- 20 Farnhill 2001, 133. This and other entries include details of bequests supplied by the late Peter Northeast.
- 21 Middleton-Stewart 2001, 133.
- 22 Bequest information supplied by the late Peter Northeast; a transcript of this will is in SROI.
- 23 Middleton-Stewart 2001, 226.
- 24 Duffy, 2012, 62, 263.
- 25 *Cal. Patent Rolls* 1467–77, 484–85, reference is to 14 Edward IV Part I m.5 (information supplied by the late Peter Northeast); Cooke 1898, 27–35.
- 26 Tymms 1850, 128.
- 27 *Calendar of Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland, Volume 12: 1458–1471* (1933), 419–24.
- 28 For all bequests see Betterton and Dymond 1989, 100–9.
- 29 For bequests see Paine, 1983, 9–17; Woodman 2010, esp. 190.
- 30 Duffy 2012, 76, 266.
- 31 Middleton-Stewart 2011, 44–47.
- 32 ERO, D/DL E55/2; Middleton-Stewart 2001, 225–26.
- 33 Most of these bequests were supplied by the late Peter Northeast; the will of Robert Clerke is cited by Duffy 2012, 60, 263.
- 34 Lewis 1947, 69.
- 35 Whale 1999, 299.
- 36 Middleton-Stewart 1992.
- 37 Bodleian Library MS, d.d. Ewelme a.6 no A.37, cited by Harvey 1984, 132; Haward 2000, esp. 46–51.
- 38 Bequest noted by Peter Northeast, cited in Baker 2011, 229.
- 39 Published in Harper-Bill 2000.

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