

## Religious History

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### ***Parish Church, origins and status***

The church of St John the Baptist is first specifically mentioned in 1222 in a confirmation by Pope Honorius III to the abbot and convent of St Mary Cirencester of the church of St John, with the hospital, other churches (the chapels of St Cecilia, Wiggold and Baunton) and the vill of Cirencester with the seven hundreds.<sup>1</sup> Architectural evidence points to an early Norman church, with the chancel rebuilt and widened in the latter part of the 12th century.<sup>2</sup> While the canons of St Mary's Cirencester later claimed to hold the church of St John the Baptist and its chapels from time immemorial, there is no firm evidence for the foundation date for the church.<sup>3</sup> None is mentioned in Domesday.

The parish church is the largest of the old parish churches of Gloucestershire, being 157 feet in internal length and 104 feet in breadth.<sup>4</sup> Its size meant it could accommodate visitations of the people and clergy of the deanery of Cirencester by the bishop of Worcester,<sup>5</sup> and the church was used as a meeting place to carry out other ecclesiastical business by the bishop.<sup>6</sup> The original chancel was rebuilt and widened in the late 12th century, and its east end was probably lengthened in the 13th century, as was most of the south chancel aisle.<sup>7</sup> The Lady Chapel was built c.1240-1250 above a barrel-vaulted crypt.<sup>8</sup> In the early 1340s, the church's sanctuary was threatened by a 'multitude of armed men' who threatened to remove Walter Beket from the church, unless he admitted his felony. Walter was subsequently pardoned for admitting killing John de Flete, who was still alive.<sup>9</sup>

At the beginning of the 15th century, bequests, amounting to 80s, were made in wills towards the building of a new belfry.<sup>10</sup> Judging by the names given to two bells in a will of 1499, they may have been gifts of the Trinity and Jesus Brotherhoods.<sup>11</sup> The Lady Chapel was almost entirely rebuilt in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century in Perpendicular style.<sup>12</sup> In the late-15th century a relatively shallow porch was built against the south aisle wall, flanked by tall octagonal battlemented stair-turrets. This was then expanded into the great south porch in a second phase c.1490-1500.<sup>13</sup> After the Dissolution, the porch was used as a town hall, and local tradition maintained that the porch was built by the

<sup>1</sup> *Ciren. Cart. I*, 161/93.

<sup>2</sup> Fuller, *St John the Baptist*, 5.

<sup>3</sup> *Ciren. Cart. I*, 123/73.

<sup>4</sup> Fuller, *St John the Baptist*, 1.

<sup>5</sup> *Reg. Sede Vacante*, 285, 389, 399-400, 430.

<sup>6</sup> *Bishop Cobham's Register*, 8; *Register of Bishop Reynolds*, 9, 140-7; *Ciren. Cart. III*, 316; R.M. Haines (ed.), *Calendar of the Register of Adam de Orleton, Bishop of Worcester 1327-1333 (Worcs. Hist. Soc., 1979)*, no.1; *Reg. Sede Vacante*, 415-17; *Calendar of Register of Henry Wakefield*, no.908.

<sup>7</sup> Fuller, *St John the Baptist*, 5.

<sup>8</sup> Verey & Brooks, *Glos. I*, 249.

<sup>9</sup> *Cal. Pat. 1343-1345*, 439-40.

<sup>10</sup> Hockaday Abs. 155, 1402, 1406; TNA, PROB 11/2A/66.

<sup>11</sup> Fuller, *St John the Baptist*, 13.

<sup>12</sup> Verey & Brooks, *Glos. I*, 250.

<sup>13</sup> Verey & Brooks, *Glos. I*, 250.

abbey on its own land for the conducting of its secular business.<sup>14</sup> The building of the porch may have been a joint venture between the town and abbey. Leading citizens left specific bequests for the building of the porch in their wills: in 1453 John Gerveys left £10;<sup>15</sup> in 1492 Robert Stone left 40 of his best sheep;<sup>16</sup> in 1497 John Benet left 13s 4d;<sup>17</sup> in 1501 John Avening left 40s.<sup>18</sup> Leland tells us that Alice Avening left a very substantial gift of 100 marks, and that her sister, the mother of Bishop Ruthall, also contributed along with others.<sup>19</sup>

Work on replacing the 13th century nave began in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>20</sup> The shields and merchants' marks that adorn the Tudor nave speak to the communal nature of the building effort,<sup>21</sup> as do specific bequests in wills for the 'mydle ile'<sup>22</sup> and 'roodelofte',<sup>23</sup> and the common stipulation for wives, as sole executrices, to dispose of the remainder of their husbands' goods as they thought best for the health of their souls.<sup>24</sup> John Pratt (d.1513) gave £40 to the construction of the middle aisle and £6 13s 4d to help build the scaffolding for the construction of the same, on condition that work began within a year of his death. If work did not begin within this time period, the money was to be spent on a priest to sing masses for himself and his friends taking £6 13s 4d a year whilst the money lasted.<sup>25</sup> Thomas George (d.1517) left 40s to the new building of the church of St John the Baptist to be paid over four years.<sup>26</sup>

The churchyard of St John the Baptist was first mentioned in a charter of 1242, by which the abbot and convent of St Mary's acquired half a wall near the churchyard from Walter de Panes.<sup>27</sup> Requests to be buried in the churchyard occur in two wills from 1469, one from 1499 and three wills from 1537.<sup>28</sup>

## **Endowment and Patronage**

### *Advowson*

In the mid-14th century the men of Cirencester alleged, among other things, that the abbot had usurped the right of presentation to the church from the king since John's reign.<sup>29</sup> Pursuit of this allegation was dropped when Edward III confirmed all the abbey's charters in return for a fine of

<sup>14</sup> Baddeley, *History of Cirencester*, 290.

<sup>15</sup> Hockaday Abs., 155, 1453.

<sup>16</sup> TNA, PROB 11/9/231.

<sup>17</sup> TNA, PROB 11/11/94.

<sup>18</sup> TNA, PROB 11/12/294.

<sup>19</sup> Leland, *Itin.*, I, 129.

<sup>20</sup> Verey & Brooks, *Glos.* I., 250.

<sup>21</sup> Verey & Brooks, *Glos.* I, 251.

<sup>22</sup> TNA, PROB 11/19/118; Worcs. R. O., wills, John Pratt 1513.

<sup>23</sup> TNA, PROB 11/24/28.

<sup>24</sup> Worcs. R. O., wills, Thomas George 1517, William Heydon 1537, Gylys Paratt 1538.

<sup>25</sup> Worcs. R. O., wills, John Pratt 1513.

<sup>26</sup> Worcs. R. O., wills, Thomas George 1517.

<sup>27</sup> *Ciren. Cart.* I, 277/133; *Ciren. Cart.* III, 323.

<sup>28</sup> Hockaday Abs., 155, 1469; TNA, PROB 11/11/658; Worcs. R. O., wills, Walter Brede (1537), John Fox (1537) & Thomas Hayward (1537).

<sup>29</sup> *Ciren. Cart.* I, 126.

£300.<sup>30</sup> The advowson of St John the Baptist brought with it the right to present to the chapels of Wiggold, St Cecilia and Baunton. In the early 13th century the abbot and convent negotiated with the lord of Wiggold to be relieved of the obligation to maintain a perpetual chantry on the manor. The lord of the manor was to provide a chaplain at his own cost if he wished to hear divine service at Wiggold, but all offerings at the chapel were to remain to the abbot and convent.<sup>31</sup>

An inquisition taken in 1310 confirmed the ancient custom by which the abbot and convent were entitled to receive a parishioner's best beast as mortuary if the lord received no heriot, and their second best beast if the lord did receive heriot.<sup>32</sup>

### *Value*

The total value of the church, including offerings at the high altar in money and kind and tithes of sheaves, was reckoned at £35 16s 6½d in 1263/4.<sup>33</sup> Gifts for tithes forgotten (mortuaria) could be received in kind, a horse worth 5s. being received in 1268,<sup>34</sup> and money was expended on collecting such mortuaria.<sup>35</sup> The largest mortuarium in extant wills was 13s 4d, left by Robert Richards in 1518 together with 'a standing cup of silver with a cover to make a pyx at the high altar there for to put in the blessed body of our Lord Jesus Christ'.<sup>36</sup>

A survey dating from the reign of Henry III valued the church, which the abbot of St Mary's Cirencester had to his own use, at 40 m. per annum. No vicar was appointed.<sup>37</sup> In 1254 the church was valued at 30 m. per annum.<sup>38</sup> In the papal taxation of 1291 St John the Baptist was taxed at £28 13s 4d; the tithe was valued at £2 17s 4d.<sup>39</sup> In the royal taxation of 1341 the church was taxed at 43 m.<sup>40</sup> In the ecclesiastical survey of 1535, the keeper of parish church of Cirencester accounted for £29 2s 6d income.<sup>41</sup>

### *Nottingham's service*

Founded in 1483 by Sir William Nottingham and consisting of a priest to say divine prayer at the altar of St Thomas the Martyr in the Lady Chapel where William's parents, William Nottingham and Christina, were buried<sup>42</sup> for the souls of William, his late wives, Cecily and Elizabeth, his parents and all faithful men departed.<sup>43</sup> The maintenance of the priest was provided for by lands and tenements in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire which in 1548 were worth £15 8s 9d *per annum*.<sup>44</sup> In

<sup>30</sup> *Ciren. Cart.* I, 132.

<sup>31</sup> *Ciren. Cart.* I, 260/338.

<sup>32</sup> *Ciren. Cart.* III, 316.

<sup>33</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, f.14v.

<sup>34</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, f.19v.

<sup>35</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, f.10.

<sup>36</sup> TNA, PROB 11/19/118.

<sup>37</sup> TNA, SC 12/18/22.

<sup>38</sup> *Ciren. Cart.* II, 459.

<sup>39</sup> *Tax. Eccl.*, 221.

<sup>40</sup> *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, 408.

<sup>41</sup> *Valor Eccl.*, 470.

<sup>42</sup> Davies, *Monumental Brasses*, 68-9.

<sup>43</sup> GA, D4590/3/1

<sup>44</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

1535 these lands, and land in Burford, Lincolnshire, were valued at £16 6s 2½d *per annum* beyond respite.<sup>45</sup> In 1548 the incumbent was Sir Thomas Neele, 54 years of age, who took £4 *per annum*.<sup>46</sup> In 1546 the service had been valued at £16 2s 1d, and the priest's stipend given as £5 6s 8d *per annum*.<sup>47</sup> On 1 September 1480 William enfeoffed John, bishop of Worcester, John Keke, John Trye and Thomas Hamchirche of these lands.<sup>48</sup> A larger group of men were specified in his will to assign the lands as 'a good and lawful estate' to divers persons to be named and limited by the warden of the weavers, the wardens of the church of St John the Baptist in Cirencester and the wardens of the chapels of the Holy Trinity and Blessed Mary the Virgin. These lands also provided for the maintenance of four poor men dwelling in 'a certain house built and ordained' by William for that purpose in 'Batellstreete', the men to be chosen by the wardens of the weavers, the church and chapels aforesaid.<sup>49</sup> This building was subsequently known as St Thomas's Hospital (now Weaver's Hall), and Battle Street was renamed Thomas Street after the almshouse.<sup>50</sup> The name of St Thomas presumably came from the almshouse's association with the chantry established by William Nottingham at the altar of St Thomas the Martyr in the Lady Chapel of the parish church. It was known as 'St Thomas' House' by the late 1530s when bequests were made to the poor men living there by Walter Brede (d.1537)<sup>51</sup> and Richard Tylladem (d.1538), whose connection to weaving is shown by bequests of two looms and a chase to family members.<sup>52</sup>

In return for their weekly payment each of the poor men was to remember William Nottingham and all the faithful departed in their prayers.<sup>53</sup> In 1548, £6 18s 8d *per annum* were given in alms to the said poor men. In 1548 the chantry had ornaments valued at 16s, and one chalice which could not be valued as, at the time of the survey, it had been taken to London.<sup>54</sup>

#### *Alice Avening's service*

Founded by Alice Avening, probably the widow of John Avening (d.1501) of Cirencester. John's will specified that a temporary chantry be established, requesting that Alice should provide for two honest priests to sing and pray for his soul, and the souls of his parents and benefactors for one year at the altar of St Katherine.<sup>55</sup> John was to be buried in the chapel of St Katherine, in an arch prepared over the north side of the altar. In 1673 a memorial brass commemorating John Avening and Alice his wife and eight children was still in place in St Katherine's chapel.<sup>56</sup> The survey of Gloucestershire chantries taken in 1548 recorded a chantry founded by Alice Avening consisting of a priest celebrating at the altar of St Nicholas and St Katherine for the souls of Alice and all Christian people. The lands bequeathed in support of this priest in Hartham (Wilts), Pyrton (Wilts),

<sup>45</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol ii, p.447.

<sup>46</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>47</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

<sup>48</sup> TNA, C 141/4/37.

<sup>49</sup> GA, D4590/3/1.

<sup>50</sup> Verey & Brooks, *Glos.* I, 178.

<sup>51</sup> Worcs. R.O., wills, Walter Brede, 1537.

<sup>52</sup> Worcs. R.O., wills, Richard Tylladem, 1538.

<sup>53</sup> GA, D4590/3/1.

<sup>54</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>55</sup> TNA, PROB 11/12/294.

<sup>56</sup> Davies, *Monumental Brasses*, ,207-11.

Througham and Cirencester<sup>57</sup> were then worth £9 16d. The incumbent in 1548 was Sir Henry Jones, 48 years of age, taking £6 13s 4d for his maintenance *per annum*. The chantry had ornaments valued at 2s.<sup>58</sup> In 1546 it had been noted that the priest also received 10s for celebrating three masses *per annum* at the manor of Hartham.<sup>59</sup> According to Leland, Alice, aunt to bishop Ruthall of Durham, also gave 100 m. to the building of the porch.<sup>60</sup> Alice's name also appears on the capital of one of the pillars on the north of the south aisle.<sup>61</sup>

#### *Robert Ricard's service or St Anthony's service*

Robert Ricard's will provided that, in addition to a perpetual obit in the Lady Chapel funded by a tenement in Chepyngstrete granted to the wardens of that chapel, a chantry should be founded before the altar of St Anthony funded by lands which Robert held in the hundred of Berkeley which exceeded £8 *per annum* in all issues, and which were to be held by 10 or 12 of the most honest persons in Cirencester.<sup>62</sup> The priest so employed should sing and say daily masses for the souls of Robert, his wife, their parents, kin, friends and all Christian souls at the altar of St Anthony for ever. He should receive £8 sterling *per annum*. Furthermore he willed that the priest should freely instruct four children selected by the churchwardens in the 'singing of plain song and pricked song for the maintenance of the divine service there'.

The survey of 1535 claimed that Robert Ricard's widow, Elizabeth Toll was enfeoffed with lands in six manors in Gloucestershire for the use of the chaplain of the chantry of St Anthony within St John the Baptist, Cirencester which were worth £6 8s 11d per annum beyond respite.<sup>63</sup> The 1548 chantry certificate for the resulting chantry recorded that the priest taught two, not four, children. The lands belonging to the chantry were then worth £7 13s 5½d; the priest, Sir William Wylson aged 46 years, took £6 15¾d per annum; and the chantry had no ornaments, plate or jewels.<sup>64</sup> The 1546 chantry survey reported that the priest took a salary of £6 13s 4d per annum.<sup>65</sup>

#### *John Jones' service*

Details of the service established by John Jones are found in an early version of his will, dated 1505, but proved 1513,<sup>66</sup> and a 18-century transcript of an indenture of a will, dated 1508.<sup>67</sup> The indenture provided that the funds from six tenements within Cirencester should be used to support a priest to say Mass for the souls of John, his parents, those he was most bound to pray for, and all Christian souls, and specified which services should be read on which days. The chantry was to last for 60 years after his decease. Thereafter the tenements were to be sold to the highest bidder and the money expended upon 'singing of Mass, making of the Highways, and other

<sup>57</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 447.

<sup>58</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>59</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

<sup>60</sup> Leland, *Itin.*, I, 129.

<sup>61</sup> Davies, *Monumental Brasses*, 207-11.

<sup>62</sup> TNA, PROB 11/19/118.

<sup>63</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 447.

<sup>64</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>65</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

<sup>66</sup> TNA, PROB 11/17/352.

<sup>67</sup> GA P86/1 VE 2/1, 123r-124r.

charitable deeds and alms to poor men' within one or two years. However in 1548 the chantry commissioners reported that the tenements were to remain to the town and their revenues used on the mending of highways and in other useful ways.<sup>68</sup> In 1548 the incumbent was Sir Stephen Redfern, aged 57 years, who took 106s 8d per annum. The lands were yearly worth £8 6s 8d. There were ornaments to the value of 8s. The 1546 chantry survey did not record this service. The 1535 ecclesiastical survey had valued the lands at £7 6s 2d per annum beyond respite, which was to be used for the chapel for a term of years and beyond that in fulfilment of John Jones' will.<sup>69</sup>

### ***Bishop Chedworth's Chantry***

In 1457 John Chedworth, bishop of Lincoln, was granted a licence 'to found a chantry of two, three or four chaplains to celebrate divine service in the parish church of St John the Baptist, Cirencester, at the altar of St Nicholas and St Katherine or other altar for the good estate of the king, queen Margaret, Edward, prince of Wales, and the said bishop and for their souls after the death and the souls of the king's progenitors and the parents and benefactors of the bishop'.<sup>70</sup> The chantry was located in the south choir aisle, a space which contained three (still extant) wall paintings of St Catherine, St Nicholas and St Christopher.<sup>71</sup> The chantry was not mentioned in either the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 nor the chantry certificates of 1546 and 1548.

### ***Jesus Service***

Although regarded as identical by Maclean,<sup>72</sup> there is no evidence that Bishop Chedworth's Service and the Jesus Service were the same chantry. The Valor Ecclesiasticus recorded the Jesus Service as having lands worth £6 per annum in Cirencester and Charlton (Wilts) for the use of one chaplain.<sup>73</sup> According to the 1546 chantry survey the Jesus service was worth £4 6s 8d per annum, and the priest took 68s per annum.<sup>74</sup> The later chantry certificate of 1548 recorded that the service had been founded by persons unknown and maintained a priest praying for the souls of the founders and all Christian souls until about 6 or 7 years previously, whence the rent from the land put in feoffment for the chantry had been employed upon repairs to the church.<sup>75</sup> The end-date of the service is therefore in doubt. A fraternity of Jesus was in existence by the late-15th century, Thomas Nele specifying that he was to be buried in the 'chapel of the fraternity of Jesus' in 1495'.<sup>76</sup>

### ***St Christopher's Service***

There is no evidence for the foundation of this chantry. The ecclesiastical survey of 1535 reported that the guardian of St Christopher's service held lands lying in Cirencester and Northleach worth £6 5d beyond reprise for the use of a chaplain.<sup>77</sup> In 1548 a chantry was recorded which had lands

<sup>68</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>69</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 447.

<sup>70</sup> *Cal. Pat. 1452-1461*, 338-9.

<sup>71</sup> E. Pridgeon, 'Researching medieval wall paintings: a guide to archival sources in England and Wales', *The Local Historian* 45 (2015), 7.

<sup>72</sup> J. MacLean, 'Chantry Certificates, Gloucestershire', *Trans. BGAS* 8 (1883-4), 286, fn.1.

<sup>73</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, vol ii, p.448.

<sup>74</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

<sup>75</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>76</sup> TNA, PROB 11/10/492.

<sup>77</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 448.

and tenements in feoffment to the value of £5 12s 8d per annum for the support of an organ player. The incumbent, Thomas Edmond, 40 years of age, took 100s yearly for this service.<sup>78</sup> In the 1546 chantry survey the priest's stipend was given as £4 19s 1d.<sup>79</sup>

### *Holy Trinity Service*

The Holy Trinity service was established in 1382 when Nicholas Poynter, Robert Playn and John Boys sought royal permission to grant the manor of Bagendon and other lands in Cirencester and Baunton to two chaplains celebrating at the altars of the Holy Trinity and St Mary in the parish church of Cirencester.<sup>80</sup> In this Poynter, Playn and Boys were acting as representatives of the fraternity which had been conceived during the reign of Edward III for the support of two priests,<sup>81</sup> and they were to grant these lands to the chaplains celebrating at the altars of the Holy Trinity and St Mary.<sup>82</sup> In 1391 William Overynton and John Yonge, chaplains of the Holy Trinity and St Mary in St John's church, Cirencester and lords of Bagendon, jointly presented to the church of Bagendon.<sup>83</sup> The 1548 survey did not refer to celebration at the altar of St Mary,<sup>84</sup> and provision may have changed after licence granted in 1392 to grant land to a chaplain celebrating in the chapel of St Mary.<sup>85</sup> However, two chaplains of the Trinity chantry were named as lords of Bagendon in the first half of the 15th century,<sup>86</sup> and two priests were named as incumbents of the Trinity service in the 1548 survey.<sup>87</sup> The name St Mary may simply have been dropped to avoid confusion with the St Mary Service in the Lady Chapel. The 1535 survey referred to Thomas Best and Thomas Phillips as the chaplains of the two chantries of Holy Trinity, having lands in Cirencester and Bagendon worth £17 ½d beyond respite per annum.<sup>88</sup> A will proved in 1410 included a bequest of 3s 4d to the fraternity of the Holy Trinity.<sup>89</sup> In 1438 Richard Dixton made a bequest of cloth for vestments.<sup>90</sup> The former chantry priest, Ralph Parsons, was buried in the chapel of the Holy Trinity in 1478.<sup>91</sup> In 1546 the fraternity of the Holy Trinity was valued at £6 10s 4d, of which 33s 4d were paid per annum for obits and 40s contributed to the maintenance of the church and the chapel of the Holy Trinity.<sup>92</sup>

### *Our Lady or St Mary's service, in the Lady Chapel*

The 1548 chantry certificate stated that the service had been founded by William Archibald and others who gave the land, worth £12 10s in 1548, for the maintenance of a priest at the altar of

<sup>78</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>79</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

<sup>80</sup> TNA, C 143/400/19.

<sup>81</sup> TNA, C 47/39/61.

<sup>82</sup> TNA, C 143/400/19.

<sup>83</sup> *Calendar of the Register of Henry Wakefield*, no.619.

<sup>84</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>85</sup> TNA, C 153/419/19.

<sup>86</sup> *Ciren. Cart.* II, no.740.

<sup>87</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>88</sup> *Valor Eccl.*, II, 447.

<sup>89</sup> TNA, PROB 11/2A/356.

<sup>90</sup> Hockaday Abs., 155, 1438.

<sup>91</sup> Davies, *Monumental Brasses*, 75-6.

<sup>92</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

our Lady.<sup>93</sup> In 1392 William Archibald and 12 others, including Nicholas Poynter and John Boys, were allowed to grant land in Cirencester to a chaplain in the chapel of St Mary in the parish church.<sup>94</sup> This land amounted to seven messuages, not held in chief, of the value of 10 m. p.a.<sup>95</sup> The origins of St Mary's service predated the formal licence and appears to have been established around the time of the building of the Lady Chapel.<sup>96</sup> The earliest dated gift to the service of St Mary contained in the Lady Chapel register is from 1311.<sup>97</sup> Other grants in the register suggest a communal responsibility for any such service: two messuages at Gildenbrigg granted towards 'the sustenance of a certain chaplain who celebrates divine service to the honour of God and St Mary in the parish church of Cirencester each day' were to remain in the possession of the parishioners of Cirencester;<sup>98</sup> another grant noted that the chapel had been constituted by all the parishioners of Cirencester.<sup>99</sup>

The general support of the community for the chapel of St Mary may be inferred from the differential monetary bequests to the lights before images or altars in the church.<sup>100</sup>

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus* valued the lands held by the service within the vill at £9 8s 2d.<sup>101</sup> In 1546 the Lady Service was valued at £12 7s 8d *per annum*;<sup>102</sup> in 1548 its lands and tenements were valued at £12 10s *per annum*. The incumbent in 1548 was Sir Thomas Taylor, 33 years of age, taking a yearly stipend of £7 for the service. No plate or jewels were reported as belonging to this service.<sup>103</sup> The 1460 inventory of goods belonging to the chapel listed little of particular value, but there were then a few small items of gold and silver or gilt.<sup>104</sup>

### ***Other Chantries***

Three temporary chantries of 1 to 3 years did not indicate which chapel the services should be celebrated in: Nicholas Poynter (d.1406),<sup>105</sup> John Pratt (d. 1513) I,<sup>106</sup> and Hugh Norres, senior (d. 1535).<sup>107</sup> Three temporary chantries were established in the chapel of the Holy Trinity: Joan Spycer (d.1445),<sup>108</sup> John Twynyho (d.1486),<sup>109</sup> and John Benet (d.1497);<sup>110</sup> and two in the chapel of St

<sup>93</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>94</sup> TNA, C 153/419/19.

<sup>95</sup> *Cal. Pat. 1391-6*, 157, 173-4.

<sup>96</sup> *Cirencester Cartulary*, III, 320, 322. Above, Parish Church, origins and status.

<sup>97</sup> Bodleian, MS Dugdale 42, f.15v.

<sup>98</sup> Bodleian, MS Dugdale 42, f.7.

<sup>99</sup> Bodleian, MS Dugdale 42, f.16.

<sup>100</sup> Hockaday Abs. 155, 1469.

<sup>101</sup> *Valor Eccl.*, II, p.447.

<sup>102</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

<sup>103</sup> TNA, E 301/22.

<sup>104</sup> Bodleian, MS Dugdale 42, f.22v-23.

<sup>105</sup> TNA, PROB 11/2A/200.

<sup>106</sup> Worcs. R.O., wills, John Pratt 1513.

<sup>107</sup> Worcs. R.O., wills, Hugh Norres senior (1535).

<sup>108</sup> TNA, PROB 11/3/518.

<sup>109</sup> TNA, PROB 11/7/295.

<sup>110</sup> TNA, PROB 11/11/94.

Katherine: John Avenyng (d.1501)<sup>111</sup> and Richard Osmonde (d.1517).<sup>112</sup> Henry Gayrstang of Cirencester (d.1464), established a chantry of a priest celebrating before the altar of St Edmund the Confessor during his wife's lifetime. He also left a primer to be chained within the 'chapel' of St Edmund.<sup>113</sup> Should his son and daughter die, Adam Baker (d.1489) wanted their legacies to be used to establish a chantry in the chapel of St Mary with a priest to pray for himself and his parents.<sup>114</sup> Henry Tapper (d.1531) left funds for a priest to pray for his soul, the souls of his friends and all Christians at the altar of St James, taking £6 6s 8d per annum as stipend for the space of ten years.<sup>115</sup> He also established an obit to be supported from the rent of his tenement in Chepinstret.

## **Religious Life**

### *Management and guilds*

Surviving obedientiary accounts of Cirencester abbey show that one canon, Richard Berne, acted as warden or keeper of the church of St John the Baptist for the period 1262-1268.<sup>116</sup> He was succeeded as keeper in 1268 by Adam de Scriveham, Adam Necus and Hyllarius<sup>117</sup> and Hyllarius went on to act as sole warden until 1274.<sup>118</sup> In 1274 the wardens were Hyllarius and Gervase,<sup>119</sup> in 1275 Gervase and James,<sup>120</sup> and in 1276 James and John de Rodinton.<sup>121</sup> The wardens were responsible for paying the wages of chaplains and deacons and other expenses of the church, such as repairs to the chancel<sup>122</sup> and maintenance of the priest's house.<sup>123</sup>

The parishioners were responsible for the maintenance of the nave. The chantry survey of 1546 reveals that there were then three fraternities in Cirencester, which had the maintenance of the church as one of their aims. The Brotherhood of the Trinity contributed 40s per annum to the maintenance of the church and the chapel of the Holy Trinity. The St Katherine Brotherhood contributed 14s. per annum to the maintenance of the parish church, and the Brotherhood of St John the Baptist contributed 2s. per annum.<sup>124</sup>

In 1494 Thomas Nele requested burial within the chapel of the fraternity of Jesus.<sup>125</sup> The two images of St Clement in the church and the bequests of Hugh Norres (d. 1535) suggest there may also have been a guild of St Clement in Cirencester.<sup>126</sup>

<sup>111</sup> TNA, PROB 11/12/294.

<sup>112</sup> TNA, PROB 11/18/507.

<sup>113</sup> Hockaday Abs. 155, 1464; Fuller, *St John the Baptist*, 11-12.

<sup>114</sup> TNA, PROB 11/8/297.

<sup>115</sup> TNA, PROB 11/24/28.

<sup>116</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, ff.1-19 *passim*.

<sup>117</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, f.19.

<sup>118</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, ff.20v-29 *passim*.

<sup>119</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, f.32v.

<sup>120</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, f.34.

<sup>121</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, img\_6004

<sup>122</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, f.23v.

<sup>123</sup> Staffs. R.O., D(W) 1778 P54 B8, ff.14v-15v.

<sup>124</sup> TNA, E 301/21, no.37.

<sup>125</sup> TNA, PROB 11/10/492.

<sup>126</sup> TNA, PROB 11/5/254; Worcs. R. O., wills, Hugh Norres senior (1535).

*Staffing*

1343: Peter de Gounceuz, parson of church of Cirencester<sup>127</sup>

1513: Sir William Calwey, parish priest; Sir ?Goas; Sir Robert Gale; Sir William Pole; Sir Richard Nicholas; Sir Robert Drake, Sir John Cusse, Sir Thomas Kyng; William Offer, curate<sup>128</sup>

1513: William Offer chaplain<sup>129</sup>

1527: William Alstone, parish priest of Cirencester; Adam Haryet, Jesus priest<sup>130</sup>

1537: Priest John Foscotte, John Wyllys<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> *Cal. Pat. 1343-1345*, p.16.

<sup>128</sup> Worcs. R. O., wills, John Pratt 1513.

<sup>129</sup> Worcs. R. O., wills, Richard Scaryning 1513.

<sup>130</sup> TNA, PROB 11/22/456.

<sup>131</sup> Worcs. R. O., wills, William Wilkyns 1537.