

Women worked only in the laundry and dairy, six in all, and among them was **Marget Heyward**. Although it cannot be certain, she is probably identical with the Margaret a Wod who was taxed six pence on wages of a pound a year in 1524. The Subsidy Return of that year lists her in Loes Hundred in Butley, along with several other Priory servants living in Plomesgate Hundred in the same parish, all male and earning £1-6-8d per annum. She was probably in charge of the launderers and dairymaids, earning the most and being liable for tax.

The various spellings of her name mean it is speculative whether she was the widow of **Robert Wood** of Butley, who died in 1518, leaving his goods to his widow and sons, William and John. John a Wod also appears in 1524, living in Boyton and being taxed a shilling on goods worth two pounds. He was not listed as part of the Priory household in 1538. Tying it all together are the wills made by **John Awode** of Boyton (1542) and **William Wood** of Butley (1546). The former left his mother, Margaret, the rooms in which she lived, a hempland, Ash Close and amounts of rye and barley annually. His brother William decreed that his executrix was to continue to pay his mother her '*pension*'. She was to receive annually three combs each of rye and barley and also wool, one and a half bushels of hemp seed and firewood sufficient for her to burn for her comfort.

**Agnes Mawlinge**, who died in 1558 and asked to be buried in Butley churchyard, mentioned many people in her will, including Augustine Brooke '*my kinsman*', who was a child at Butley Priory in 1538 and a nephew of the last Prior. She bequeathed to him '*one able mylche cowe*' to be delivered by her executors at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. Augustine's children were to receive thirty shillings between them, as were the children of three others. Her nephew and niece and others who were possible related to her were bequeathed money. Next came her four servants who were given calves or one mark (6s 8d) in lieu, or else ewes. Amounts of six pence were given to a long list of people ending with '*poore Besse*'.

Agnes left most of her property, including a tenement in Ashfield, to her daughter, Elizabeth, but she was to release by surrender, at the age of twenty-one, the tenement to her uncle Clement Mawlinge. Agnes was probably the widow of John Mawlinge the usher at the Priory in 1538. Others on the Priory list and receiving six pence were Henry Punt and Widow Furton. Henry had been responsible for making candles and keeping the fish house and Thomas Furton was a warrener attached to the Priory. Several other beneficiaries bear the same surnames as people previously employed at the Priory and they may well be the offspring of such people. Finally, Agnes left six pence to Father Thorpe and Father Chyles, probably elderly widowers.

This will, and the mention of so many persons connected with the old Priory, may be indicative of the hope of a permanent return of Catholicism by a number of people in Butley at this time. Queen Mary had been on the throne for five years and many of the old church practices had been restored. However, Elizabeth succeeded Mary, and Protestantism triumphed, and Agnes's will was the last glimpse of the old order, except possibly for Augustine Brooke's name, which can still be seen, carved on the parish church door with the date 1571, exactly four hundred years after the founding of the Priory.

## Vic Harrup

### Sources

Wills in the Suffolk Record Office at Ipswich:

Margaret Alysandir	1483	R3/25 Archdeaconry of Suffolk (AS)
Joan Algoode	1473	12 Hubert Norwich Consistory Court (NCC)
Margaret Hallywell	1487	66 Aubry (NCC)
Isabel Mannyng	1487	66 Aubry (NCC)
Cecily Talbas	1486	111 Aubry (NCC)
Margaret Talvesse	1529	10/50 (AS)