

Below: A likeness of John Greenwood? A sketch of his contemporary's memorial brass, Alexander Inglisse, at St John the Baptist, Campsea Ashe, by Valerie Fenwick

A TUDOR CLERICAL MYSTERY

investigates the last testament of an Orford priest

Among the registers of Norwich Consistory Court are copies of two wills in the name of John Greenwood, priest, of Orford. The first will that was copied begins 'The first day of January in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and seven I John Greenwood, priest of Orford', whereas the later copy spells his name Greenwood and is dated the first day of January 1556. Otherwise, the two wills are virtually identical.

Greenwood wished to be buried in the churchyard of St. Bartholomew's, Orford, and he bequeathed his son Thomas Greenwood his tenement called Gymboldes and his close at Spitill Lane's end, which he farmed. His other son, John, was bequeathed his tenement Mawlters and his farm close called Pecokes Hill, both of which the boys could enter at the age of eighteen years. If either died before entry then the other would inherit. If both died then the boys' aunt, Anne Garson, would have Thomas' part, and if she died her sister Frances Garson would have it. Two of Greenwood's last bequests were his mother's best gown to Anne and his own black gown to Frances. It is most likely they helped look after the two young boys following the death of their mother.



There was a long list of furniture and household goods given to each of the two boys, but Thomas was singled out for some items given him by his 'grandam'. They were a posted bed, a copper kettle and a silver salt, part gilt. Finally, he charged his executors, William Ward, parish priest of Eke (Eyke or Iken) and Thomas Pye of Orford, with the responsibility of bringing up his two boys until they were aged eighteen.

Although there is no mention of a maltings, there is evidence that John Greenwood had an interest in the making of beer. He asked that his executors should have a 'sеме' of barley 'to the bringing up of my children' and receive ten bushels of barley from

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