

The Will of Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare

Elizabeth de Burgh's Testament and Last Will, drawn up in French on 25 September 1355,
translated into English by Dr Jennifer Ward ¹

[fol. 164v] In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen. I, Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare, ordain and make my testament and last will with my full memory on 25 September in the year of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ 1355, in the form and manner following. First I leave my soul to God and to his sweet mother St Mary and to all the saints of Heaven, and my body to the earth to be buried at the house of Minoresses outside Aldgate in London. Item I bequeath for light around my body on the eve and day of my burial 200lb. of wax of which I wish and ordain that all the surplus of the light that shall be expended shall be divided among the poor churches of the area, with the consent of the above house, according to the discretion of my executors. Item I bequeath and ordain for the expenses of burying my body on the eve and day of my burial and for the distribution to the poor on the same day, £200. And I wish and ordain that my body should not remain above ground more than fifteen days after my death in which time the solemnities of my burial are to be carried out without further delay.

And after my burial I wish and ordain that my debts are paid first, and after my debts are rendered and paid I wish first that the services of my servants are paid in the following manner: first to Sir Nicholas Damory 6 chargers, 12 dishes, 1 silver cup with a cover and 1 silver salt-cellar. To Robert Mareschal, 12 silver dishes and 2 silver cruets partly gilt. To Suzanne de Neketon, 12 silver dishes, 2 new silver cruets, 1 silver clasp enamelled with my arms, and my best robe with all the garments. To Anne de Lexden, £20 sterling, 1 chalice, 1 silver clasp enamelled with my arms, 12 silver dishes, and my black robe with all the garments. To Elizabeth Torel, 1 silver cup with crenellated cover, and 2 silver basins with spout and with the bottom enamelled, and my second-best robe with the garments. To Margaret Banchon, 4 silver ewers, and my third-best robe with all the garments. To Colinet Morley and Isabel his wife, 1 silver-gilt cup with crenellated cover, 8 large shallow bowls, 36 smaller shallow bowls, and to the said Isabel my fourth-best robe with all the garments. To John de Southam and Agnes his wife, 4 silver pots, 1 silver cup, 1 alabaster goblet with silver-gilt decoration, 1 small silver basin in the form of a dish, and to the said Agnes 3 garments of my fifth-best robe, namely coat, surcoat and cloak with lining. To Alison de Wodeham, 6 silver plates, 1 silver powder-pot, and all the remainder of my sixth-best robe except what is bequeathed to Joan Horslee for the loss of a ring. To Johanette Drueys, 6 silver plates and 2 silver-gilt spoons and 1 spoon of blanchéd silver. Item to divide between the said Alison and Johanette my 2 robes of tirtain. To Sir John de Lenne, 1 mazer with crenellated cover decorated with silver-gilt, 1 silver chalice, 1 confessor's vestment of chequered silk with all the apparel. To Sir Peter de Ereswell, 1 enamelled silver-gilt box, 1 chalice, 1 pair of candlesticks, 2 basins, 1 holy water pot with a sprinkler, 1 bell, and 1 silver-gilt clasp with precious stones, my 2 books of antiphons in an old volume, 2 graduals in an old volume, 1 vestment of red and indigo camaca with all the apparel, and 6 of the best surplices of my chapel which he wishes to

choose. To Sir Henry Motelot, 6 basins, 1 silver plate with a foot, 1 vestment of red and tawny camaca with all the apparel, and 1 mazer with the cover decorated with silver-gilt. To [fol. 165r] Sir William de Manton, 3 silver pots, 15 pieces of silver, and 1 silver scallop. To Brother John de Haselbech, 5 marks. To Brother Robert de Wisebech, 5 marks. To Sir William Albon, the better of 2 single vestments of white camaca. To Sir John de Chipham, the other single vestment of white camaca. To Sir Edward Sothword, £5. To Sir John de Huntyngdon, £5. To Sir William de Berkwey, 1 vestment of camaca, the field dark tawny, with all the apparel. To Sir William de Wykkewane, 2 silver spoons, 1 pair of silver candlesticks with decoration, and 1 goblet of beryl with silver-gilt decoration. To Sir William Aylmer, £5. To Sir William de Ditton, 1 box of blanchéd silver, 1 silver-gilt chalice, 2 cruets, 1 pax, 1 silver candlestick for the holy candle, 1 vestment of camaca with a black field. To Sir Henry Palmer, 1 silver-gilt pax, 34 silver spoons, 2 silver chargers, 1 striped vestment of 2 camacas with all the apparel. To Sir William Coke, £3. To Brother John the hermit, 1 little silver bell, 1 gold spoon, and 2 silver ewers. To Sir John de Kirkeby, £3. To Richard de Waterden, £3. To John de Clare, £20 sterling. To John Bataille, 2 silver-gilt cruets, 2 large pots and 2 smaller pots of silver, and 12 silver dishes. To Robert Flemengs, 2 silver ewers, and 1 silver dish with a very broad foot for the almonry. To Joan Horslee, 3 garments of my sixth best robe, namely the coat, surcoat and cloak with lining. To Walter de Kirkeby, 1 pair of silver basins, 1 holy water pot, and 1 silver-gilt sprinkler. To Nicholas Nowers, £10. To John Gough, 1 silver ewer, partly gilt, and 4 silver cups. To Humphrey de Waleden, 2 silver chargers [and] 2 plates with feet partly enamelled to match. To Thomas Charman, 1 ewer and 12 silver dishes. To Richard de Kingeston, 1 little silver pot, 1 cup of jasper, 1 goblet of plain silver. To Alexander Charman, 3 pairs of basins. To Richard de Buskeby, 1 tablet, 2 *chaufe-poyntz* of which 1 is gilt, and 1 large silver pot. To John Messenger, £5. To Master Philip Lichet, 10 marks. To Stephen Derby, £3. To John de Knaresburgh, 20 marks. To William Beneyt, 2 silver chargers. To Richard de Wodeham, £5. To John Motelot, 1 candlestick partly of silver, 2 holy water pots, and 2 sprinklers. Item to Thomas de Lynton, £3. Item to Firmyn de Shropham, £2. To John de Henle, £2. To Walter de Coleshull, £5. To William de Stone, £4. To Stephen Skinner, £2 10s. To William de Colecestre, 6 silver cups. To Thomas Montjoye, £5. To Thomas Scot, 1 basin and 3 silver ewers. To John Larderer, 10 marks. To Hugh Poulterer, 10 marks. To Richard the Pastrycook, £3. To John de Dunmowe, £3. To Henry Poulterer, 5 marks. To Cok Havering, £4. To John Brian, £5. To John Whiteheved, £5. To John Brewer, £5. To John de Rushton, £5. To John Chandler, 1 plain silver-gilt goblet, 1 little ewer of silver. To Richard Watchman, £3. To Richard le Charer, £4 and the ladies' coach with the equipment belonging to it. To Justin Forester, 5 marks. To Richard Forrider, £3 10s. To John de Kent, £3. To John de Reveshale, £2. To John le Venour, formerly residing with me, £2. To Richard de Waltham, £3. To John Parker of Southfrith, £1. To John Parker, bailiff of Erbury, £2. To Roger Garbedons, £5. To Richard Segor, £5. To Richard atte Pole, £2. To William Edward, £2. To Simon Parker of Trelleck, £2. To Adam Baker, £2. To William Gruffuth, £3. To Thomas Aylmer, £1. To Esmon Edward of Farnham, £2. To John Bacon, bailiff of Burton [*sic*], £1. To Nicholas Artour, bailiff of Cranborne, £3. To John Goffe, bailiff of Wyke, £2. To Thomas Palmer, reeve of Stoke Verdon, £5. To

Adam ap Wyllym, bailiff of New Grange, £2. To Richard Cook, bailiff of Liswerry, £3. To Richard Toyere, reeve of Troy, £2. Item to Robert of the Chamber, £2. To John de Wardon, 2 pieces of silver. To Nicholas le Ewer and Isabel his wife, 5 marks. To John de Redyng, £2. To Thomas de Henham, £2 6s. 8d. To John Testepyn, 2 marks. To Richard groom of the Chamber, 2 marks. To Thomas le Purtreour, 2 marks. To Richard de Lanyngton, £2. To John groom of the Buttery, 2 marks. To Adam of the Bakery, £5. To William Bacon, £2. To Robert Wulwy, £1. To Perot de Holand, £1 13s. 4d. To John Caton, £3. To John Loucesone, £3. To Robert Loucesone, £3. To Henry Cnapyng, £3. To Richard of the Forge, 2 marks. To Robert of the Chandlery, 2 marks. To Walter Hunte, 2 marks. To William Joliffe, 2 marks. To John Saddler, £1. To all the pages of my household who wear my livery, £10 to divide between them, according to the disposition of my executors.

Item I bequeath for masses to be sung for the souls of Sir John de Burgh, Sir Theobald de Verdun and Sir Roger Damory, my lords, for my soul, and for the souls of all my good and loyal servants who have died or will die in my service, £140. And I wish that this be done in the first year after my death as quickly as can be carried out well in the most convenient places according to the ordinance of my executors. Item I bequeath 100 marks in order to find 5 men-at-arms for the Holy Land to be given to anyone who would be faithful and suitable who wishes to take up the duty, if a common expedition is mounted within 7 years of my death, to be devoted to the service of God and the destruction of His enemies, for the souls of my lords, Sir John, Sir Theobald, Sir Roger, and mine.² And it is my will and final intention that if no common expedition is mounted to the said land within the aforesaid years that after this time has elapsed the aforesaid 100 marks should be divided and given to other alms and works of charity, as in part for the relief of houses of men and women religious possessioners who have fallen into poverty by chance of divers misfortunes, to pray for the aforesaid souls, the souls of all my benefactors and of all Christians. Item I bequeath to the Holy Land to help Christians to maintain the law of God, 6s. 8d.

Item I bequeath to the house of the Sisters Minoresses outside Aldgate in London, £20, 1 crystal reliquary, 1 large silver-gilt chalice, and 2 [?] costly cruets, 1 vestment of white cloth of gold with whatever belongs to the said vestment, and 3 clasps with a thousand pearls, together with my russet robe with all the garments. Item I bequeath to the same place for a memorial the vestment of black cloth of gold with whatever belongs to it, 5 cloths of gold, 1 bed of black tartarin with 8 hangings and whatever belongs to the same bed, of which 4 hangings belong to the above black vestment. Item to the same place 6 large hangings of fine wool of 1 of my other black beds, and 12 large hangings of fine wool of 1 of my other black beds, and 12 green hangings with the border powdered with owls. [fol. 165v] Item to Sister Katherine de Ingham, abbess of the same place, £20. Item to each sister of the same abbey on the day of my burial, 13s. 4d. Item to 4 brothers of the same place on the said day, to each ½ mark.

Item I bequeath to my hall called Clare Hall in Cambridge, £40 in money, 1 silver-gilt censer, 6 chargers, 39 shallow bowls, 1 boat for the almonry to help them to build. Item I bequeath to my said Hall for a perpetual memorial to the profit of my chaplains in the college, 2 silver-gilt chalices with 2 small spoons, 2 cruets, 1 gilt and enamel decorated box for the body of our Lord,³ and 1 censer with a silver boat for incense. Item to the same place, a vestment of red camaca embroidered with gold imagery with whatever belongs to the said vestment, 1 vestment of black camaca for requiems with 1 cope and whatever belongs to the said vestment, 1 vestment of white tartarin striped with gold for Lent with all the apparel, and 1 cloth for the sepulchre,⁴ 1 vestment of blue camaca diapered with dark tawny with 2 albs and whatever belongs to the said vestment, 1 vestment of white samite also for Lent, and all the furnishings of my chapel except those which are bequeathed to Sir Peter, and the larger container of the two, fashioned like a sparrow-hawk, for the body of our Lord. Item I bequeath to my said Hall 2 good books of antiphons each with a gradual in the same volume, 1 good book of saints' lives, 1 good missal well noted, another missal covered with white leather, 1 good Bible covered with black leather, 1 book by Hugutio,⁵ 1 Legend of the Saints, 1 pair of Decretals,⁶ 1 book of *Quaestiones*,⁷ and 32 quires of a book called *Of the Cause of God against Pelagius*.⁸

Item I bequeath to the cathedral church of St Paul [*London*] a new vestment of white camaca with whatever belongs to it for a memorial. Item I bequeath to St Thomas of Hereford an image of our Lady of silver-gilt to be attached to his shrine, and to the cathedral church there 1 vestment of indigo satin, namely a chasuble, 2 tunicles, 1 cope embroidered with imagery and powdered with archangels. Item I bequeath to the work of the church of Walsingham 1 silver-gilt and enamelled cup with a tripod, and £4 in pennies, and 2 cloths of gold.⁹ Item to the house of Stoke [*by Clare*], 12 silver-gilt spoons, and 1 *drag'* with a silver foot, partly gilt, and 2 cloths of gold.¹⁰ Item to the house of Anglesey, 10 marks, and the vestment of a red cloth of gold of [*?*]taffeta¹¹ with 3 crests, partly silver-gilt, for the copes.¹² Item to the house of Royston, £3, and 2 cloths of gold.¹³ Item to the house of Tewkesbury, 2 reliquaries, 1 cross with Mary and John, and 2 cloths of gold.¹⁴ To the house of Amesbury, £10 and 2 cloths of gold.¹⁵ To the house of Cranborne, £1 and 2 cloths of gold.¹⁶ To the house of Tonbridge, £5 and 2 cloths of gold.¹⁷ To the house of Tintern, 1 vestment of white *saeryn* cloth with whatever belongs to it, and 2 cloths of gold.¹⁸ To the house of ladies of Usk, 10 marks, and 2 cloths of gold.¹⁹ To the house of Croxden, £5, and 2 cloths of gold.²⁰ To the house of Chipley, £2 and 1 cloth of gold.²¹ To the house of [*Bury*] St Edmunds, 3 cloths of gold.²² To the hospital of St John in Cambridge, £2.²³ To the house of monks in Thetford, 10 marks and 1 cloth of gold.²⁴ To the house of ladies in Swaffham, 12 silver dishes, and 2 cloths of gold.²⁵

To the parish church of Clare, £3, and 1 cloth of gold. To the parish church of Bardfield, £3, and 1 cloth of gold. To the parish church of Standon, £3, and 1 cloth of gold. To the parish church of Bottisham, £2, and 1 cloth of gold.

Item to the friars of St Augustine of Clare, £10.²⁶ To the friars minor of Babwell, £5.²⁷ To the friars preacher of Thetford, £2. To the 4 orders of friars of Lynn, £8.²⁸ To the 4 orders of friars of Norwich, £8. To the friars minor of Walsingham, £5.²⁹ To the four orders of friars in Yarmouth, £8. To the friars of St Augustine in Orford, £2. To the friars preacher of Dunwich, £2. To the friars minor of Ipswich, £2. To the friars minor of Colchester, £2. To the friars preacher of Sudbury, 10 marks. To the friars preacher of Chelmsford, £2. To the friars minor of Ware, £2. To the Carmelite friars of Maldon [*no sum of money*]. To the 4 orders of friars in London, £8. To the 3 orders of friars in Canterbury, £6.³⁰ To the friars minor of Cambridge, £2. Item to the same friars for their work, £5, and the other 3 [*orders*] of friars in Cambridge, £6. To the friars minor of Bedford, £2. To the friars of St Augustine of Huntingdon, £2. To the 4 orders of friars of Northampton, £8. To the 4 orders of friars of Stamford, £8. To the friars minor of Grantham, £2. To the 4 orders of friars of Oxford, £8. To the friars minor of Worcester, £3. To the friars in Hereford, £4.³¹ To the 4 orders of friars in Bristol, £8. To the 2 orders of friars of Cardiff, £6.³² To the 4 orders of friars of Gloucester, £8. To the friars preacher and minor of Salisbury, £4. To the friars minor of Dorchester, £2.

Item I bequeath to Lady Elizabeth my daughter [*sic*], Countess of Ulster,³³ all the debt which my son, her father, owed me on the day he died. Item I bequeath to my said daughter for seed-corn 407qr of wheat, rye and maslin for the winter sowing-season on the manors of my inheritance in the bailiwick of Clare, namely, Standon, Bardfield, Claret, Erbury, Hundon, Woodhall, Bircham and Walsingham; in the bailiwick of Dorset, namely, Cranborne, Tarrant Gunville, Pimperne, Steeple, Wyke and Portland; and in Wales, namely, Troy, Trelleck, Llangwm, New Grange,³⁴ Llantrissent and Tregrug.³⁵ Item 61qr of beans, peas, and vetches on the same manors for the Lent sowing-season. Item 204qr of barley and dredge for the same season. Item 529qr of oats for the same season. Item cart-horses for the above manors, 23; item draught-animals, 94; of oxen for the ploughs, 248; together with the dead stock in the said manors such as carts, ploughs, ox waggon, hay and straw.

Item I bequeath to my daughter Bardolf³⁶ my bed of green velvet striped with red with whatever belongs to it together with 1 coverlet of dark cloth lined with minever pured, 1 half-coverlet to match, and 1 kerchief of indigo samite lined with [?]blanket, and 1 coverlet of tawny medley lined with gris. Item I bequeath to my said daughter 1 great hall of worsted [*hangings*], the field tawny, with parrots and blue cockerels, and whatever belongs to it. Item I bequeath to my said daughter my great coach with the equipment, curtains and cushions and whatever belongs to it. Item I bequeath to Sir John Bardolf and to my said daughter his wife jointly in my manors of Caythorpe and Clopton 26qr of wheat for seed-corn for the winter sowing-season, [*and*] 7qr 4b, of maslin and rye. Item for the Lent sowing-season, 17qr 4b. of peas, 37qr 4b. of barley, 9qr 4b. of dredge, 22qr lb. of oats; 4 carthorses, 12 draught-animals, 22 oxen, together with my carts and ploughs which belong to the said manors, and all their equipment. Item I bequeath to my young daughter, Isabel Bardolf,³⁷ to help her to marry 1 goblet of plain gold, 2 large

ornaments partly enamelled, and 12 large silver shallow bowls, my bed of sendal, with a coverlet of ash-grey medley lined with minever. Item to Agnes her sister to help her to marry 1 silver cross, 2 candlesticks, 2 salt-cellars, 1 cup, 1 large dish for the almonry, 1 goblet of embossed silver, 1 incense-boat, 1 censer, 1 clasp with the [fol. 166r] Annunciation, and 6 new chargers of silver. Item to the said Agnes, a bed of indigo of which the hangings and coverlet are of velveteen, with what belongs to it, and a blue coverlet lined with gris. Item I bequeath to Sir William de Ferrers³⁸ in my manor of Lutterworth seed-corn for the said manor, namely, 11qr 6b. of wheat, 6qr 4b. of rye, 2qr of maslin, 13qr of beans and peas, 13qr of barley, 2qr of dredge, 29qr of oats; 4 carthorses, 6 draught-animals, 18 oxen, together with the carts and ploughs and all the equipment. Item I bequeath to Sir Thomas Furnivall³⁹ grain for seed-corn on my manors of Farnham [*Bucks*], Sere,⁴⁰ Stoke Verdon [*Staffs*] and Wilsford [*Wilts*], namely, 35qr 2b. of wheat, 12qr 4b. of rye and maslin, 10qr 6b. of peas and vetches, 45qr 4b. of barley and dredge, 34qr 7b. of oats; 2 carthorses, 16 draught animals, 28 oxen, together with the carts, ploughs and all the equipment. Item I bequeath to my daughter the countess of Athol⁴¹ my 2 beds of tawny, the large and the small, with whatever belongs to them. Item 1 coverlet of bronze cloth in grain, with a half-pured lining, and 1 kerchief of dark tawny camaca with a half-pured lining.

Item I bequeath to my lord the King for his college of Windsor⁴² 1 gold cup with a foot for the body of our Lord, and 1 of silver-gilt with 3 little angels on the cup. I bequeath to my lord the Prince⁴³ a gold tabernacle with the image of Our Lady and 2 little angels of shaped gold, 1 large silver-gilt cross with Mary and John, and 2 large paxes of silver-gilt and enamel, and 1 gold ring with a ruby. Item I bequeath to the duke of Lancaster⁴⁴ my little psalter covered with gold *arvail*, and 1 square cross with a piece of the true cross which is in a gold enamelled case. Item I bequeath to Lady Marie de St Pol, countess of Pembroke, 1 little gold cross with a sapphire in the centre, and 1 gold ring with a diamond. Item I bequeath to Joan de Bar, countess of Warenne, 1 gold image of St John the Baptist in the desert.

And I wish and ordain that, if I do not reward any of the aforesaid persons as in wardships, marriages, grants of lands, rents, gifts of money, any loan or other benefit beyond the certain covenant with my aforesaid servants, namely between the date of this testament and the day of my death, that with reference to reward of wardships, marriages, grants of land, rents, gifts of money and loans, if any person is included in part of the payment in this my testament, no person excepted, except only those who will undertake the charge and execution of this my testament, their reward will be found, together with their names and the total sum of money which I vouchsafe to each person, in a remembrance sealed with my seal in place of the sum of money above, the parcels of gold and silver are assigned to the aforesaid persons and divers houses. Item I wish and ordain that the delivery of all the parcels, named and bequeathed, saving only the money, is carried out by my executors to each person according to what I have declared in the above remembrance; I wish that the parcels should be had and held as included in this [*document*] and of the same consequence and value as they were written word for word in this my

testament. And if it happens that any of the parcels of gold and silver bequeathed to my household are ordained for another benefit during my lifetime after the date of this testament, so that the same parcels are not found after my death because of the change made by me, I wish that due amends be made to the same person in money or in another parcel of my goods to the [*same*] value. And everyone should know that it is my will and last ordinance that each person to whom I have bequeathed plate or other parcel of silver, except money, be the sum lesser or greater, should have according to his portion 17lb. in weight of precious metal to £20 sterling, and, if by chance any person's portion is more than the sum of money bequeathed to him, the said person should make amends to my executors for the surplus, and, if any person should have less for his portion than the above weight, I wish that compensation should be made to him for what is lacking. And if my executors are informed that I have not made full satisfaction to my aforesaid servants or to others of my servants not included in this my testament for their work at the present time, in the past or in the future, I wish and ordain that, out of the residue of the plate of my chapel and wardrobe, apart from what is bequeathed, there be made to them a reasonable reward according to the good discretion of my executors, and the said residue be not put to other profit, sold or delivered until my last will is fully carried out. And if it happens by chance, which God forbid, that any of those close to me, friends, or any other man to whom I have bequeathed anything, or any other in their name should hinder and trouble my executors so that they cannot peacefully administer all my goods, movable and immovable, according to their charge and the content of this my last will, I wish and ordain that the bequest to the said persons of any condition should be null and void, so that they do not receive part or parcel of this my bequest or of my other aforesaid goods, except the peril which comes to wrongful occupiers of the goods of the dead and disturbers of their last wills. Item if through necessity a cutback must be made, I wish it to be made as much from the goods that I have bequeathed to the said Lady Elizabeth, my daughter of Ulster, Sir John Bardolf and my daughter his wife, Sir William de Ferrers, Sir Thomas Furnivall, and my daughter of Athol, as from all the others included in this my testament. And because divers hindrances are often made through malice, and man's subtlety is greater than was usual before this time, I wish and ordain that all those to whom I have bequeathed anything in this my testament should give acquittances to my executors as much for all manner of actions, complaints and demands which they have or could have against my executors, as for the bequests made to them and paid by the aforesaid executors. And if the said legatees refuse and do not want to make such acquittances according to the content of this my ordinance, I wish and ordain that the bequests made by me to them should be held null and unwritten. Item I ordain that my executors give acquittance and full liberation to Sir John Leche for 1,000 marks which he owes me by his deed of obligation, so that he is to make general acquittance to my executors for all manner of actions which he has or could have towards them as executors.

And as for the residue of all my goods and chattels which will remain after the execution of this my testament, I wish and ordain that a distribution be made by my executors in the following manner, namely

to relieve poor religious possessioners, both ladies and others who have fallen into misfortune, partly for poor gentlewomen who are burdened with children, to help poor parish churches and to repair and improve their furnishings, partly to find and support poor scholars at school, to repair bridges and causeways, poor people who used to have a household, poor merchants who by chance have been ruined, and to be concerned with and help poor prisoners; the rest is to be used for other works of charity with reference to the good discretion of my executors, according to what they will see best to do for the salvation of my soul.

And to carry out and accomplish fully and faithfully this my last will and testament, I ordain, appoint and name my executors written below, namely, Sir Nicholas Damory, Sir John de Lenne, Sir [fol. 166v] Henry Motelot, John Bataille, Sir Peter de Ereswell, Robert Mareschal, and Sir William de Manton, principal and chief [*executors*]; Sir Henry Palmer, Richard de Buskeby, Thomas Charman, Alexander Charman, Humphrey de Waleden, Richard de Kyngeston, John Motelot, and Sir William de Berkwey, secondary [*executors*]. And I wish and ordain that the aforesaid Sir Nicholas, Sir John, Sir Henry Motelot, John Bataille, Sir Peter, Robert, Sir William de Manton, Sir Henry Palmer, Richard, Thomas, Alexander, Humphrey, Richard de Kyngeston, John Motelot and Sir William de Berkwey administer all my goods and chattels touching this my testament in the following form and manner and not otherwise: namely that of my goods which shall be sold in all parts to perform my will, the sellers in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex should be Sir William de Manton, Humphrey de Waleden, and Thomas Charman. Item in the lordship of Usk and elsewhere in parts of Wales, the aforesaid Sir Henry Motelot and Alexander; in the counties of Dorset, Wiltshire and the Chilterns, Sir Henry Motelot, Richard de Kyngeston, and John Motelot. Item in the counties of Lincoln, Leicester and Warwick, Richard de Buskeby and Sir William de Berkwey. And the money raised from all my goods and chattels aforesaid is to be delivered by indenture to Sir William de Manton, Sir Henry Palmer and Richard de Buskeby, and the same Sir William, Henry and Richard are to be accountable for their receipt to the aforesaid Sir Nicholas, Sir John, Sir Henry Motelot, and my other principal executors. And by the ordinance of the said Sir Nicholas, Sir John, Sir Henry Motelot, John Bataille and the other principal and chief executors, all the bequests will be made; other distributions which will be carried out and all other things for which they are responsible are to be performed and settled. In witness of these things I have affixed my seal to this my last will. Given at Clare on the day and year aforesaid.

[Probate of the said testament in the presence of Simon Islip, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the church of the Sisters Minoresses of the order of St Clare outside Aldgate, London, on 3 December A.D.1360.]

¹ Source: Lambeth Palace Library, London, Islip's Register, fols 164v-166v; printed by J. Nichols in *A Collection of All the Wills Now Known to be Extant of the Kings and Queens of England...*, London 1780, pp.22-43, <https://archive.org/details/acollectionallw00nichgoog/page/n40/mode/2up>; translated and paragraphed by Jennifer Ward and published in J.Ward, *Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare (1295-1360): Household and Other Records*, Suffolk Records Society, 2014.

² The Lady's interest in a crusade to the Holy Land may stem from the fact that her mother, Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I and Eleanor of Castile, was born in the Holy Land in 1272 during her father's crusade.

³ The host which the priest consecrates during mass.

⁴ A reference to the sepulchre, the tomb in which Jesus was laid after the Crucifixion. In a medieval church, the Easter sepulchre was situated to the north of the high altar; the host was placed in it on Good Friday and taken out on Easter Sunday.

⁵ Hugutio was an exponent of the Decretals.

⁶ Two collections of Decretals, i.e. two works on canon law.

⁷ Questions of theology expounded in the universities.

⁸ Written by Thomas Bradwardine, archbishop of Canterbury, d. 1349.

⁹ This is probably a reference to the priory of Augustinian canons at Walsingham of which the Lady was patron.

¹⁰ The priory of Stoke by Clare was founded in Clare castle in 1090 by Gilbert of Tonbridge, the son of Richard son of Count Gilbert, founder of the Clare family in England. It was transferred to Stoke in 1124, and was a cell of the Norman Benedictine abbey of Bec. The Clare family, including the Lady, held the patronage.

¹¹ 'Raffata' in the manuscript.

¹² Anglesey priory was a small house of Augustinian canons, founded about 1200 by Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford. The Lady resided there from time to time into the 1340s and was the patron.

¹³ The priory of Royston was established for Augustinian canons. The Lady was patron.

¹⁴ The Benedictine abbey of Tewkesbury was closely associated with the earls of Gloucester in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The Clare family succeeded to the earldom of Gloucester in 1217 and became patrons of the abbey. Earls Gilbert (d.1230), Richard (d.1262), Gilbert (d. 1295), and Gilbert (d.1314) were buried in the abbey church. The patronage in 1317 was awarded to Hugh le Despenser the younger and his wife Eleanor de Clare. The Lady stayed at Tewkesbury on journeys to and from Usk, and with her father and brother buried there presumably wanted to maintain her connection with the abbey.

¹⁵ The Lady lived at the nunnery of Amesbury after the death of her second husband, Theobald de Verdun, in 1316, and her daughter Isabella was born there on 21 March 1317.

¹⁶ Cranborne priory was Benedictine. The Lady was patron.

¹⁷ Tonbridge was a small priory of Augustinian canons, founded about 1190 by Richard de Clare, earl of Hertford.

¹⁸ Tintern was founded as a Cistercian abbey in 1131 by Walter fitz Richard, younger son of Richard son of Count Gilbert, founder of the Clare family in England. Walter's lands passed to Gilbert and Richard Strongbow, and in the late twelfth century to the Marshal family.

¹⁹ The Benedictine nunnery of Usk was founded about 1170 by Richard Strongbow, descended from a younger line of the Clare family. The Lady was patron.

²⁰ Croxden was a Cistercian abbey in Staffordshire; Theobald de Verdun, the Lady's second husband, was buried there.

²¹ Chipley was a small Augustinian priory on the outskirts of Clare.

²² The Benedictine abbey of Bury St Edmunds.

²³ St John's hospital was converted into St John's College, Cambridge, in 1509-11.

²⁴ This was a Cluniac foundation.

²⁵ Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambs. This was a Benedictine nunnery.

²⁶ Clare priory was founded by the Lady's grandfather, Richard de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, in 1248.

²⁷ This priory was at Bury St Edmunds.

²⁸ The Dominicans, friars preacher; Franciscans, friars minor; Carmelites; and Augustinians.

²⁹ The Franciscan house in Walsingham was founded by the Lady.

³⁰ i.e. Dominicans, Franciscans and Augustinians.

³¹ Dominicans.

³² Dominicans and Franciscans.

³³ Elizabeth de Burgh, countess of Ulster was the Lady's granddaughter and principal heir; she was married to Lionel, second surviving son of Edward III.

³⁴ New Grange manor belonged to Usk.

³⁵ Tregrug alias Llangibby.

³⁶ Elizabeth Bardolf, daughter of the Lady and Roger Damory.

³⁷ One of the Lady's granddaughters.

³⁸ The Lady's grandson, son of her daughter Isabella and Sir Henry de Ferrers.

³⁹ Sir Thomas Furnivall married one of the daughters and coheiresses of Theobald de Verdun, the Lady's second husband; part of his inheritance was assigned to the Lady as dower.

⁴⁰ This place has not been identified.

⁴¹ The Lady's granddaughter, daughter of Henry and Isabella de Ferrers; she married David de Strathbogie, earl of Athol.

⁴² The college of St George, founded by Edward III in 1348.

⁴³ Edward of Woodstock, the Black Prince, eldest son of Edward III.

⁴⁴ Henry of Grosmont.