

## Wills of three Castle Rising Rectors.

These are the wills of three of Castle Rising's rectors.

**William Dyx** (or Dikkys), who died on 21 June 1491, was rector of the parish from 1487-91. He had been appointed early in the reign of Henry VII.<sup>i</sup>

**William Carter**, who died on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1505, having served as rector since 1491. He had been appointed by Arthur, Henry VIII's elder brother who died before his father Henry VII's death.<sup>ii</sup>

These two were both priests prior to the reformation and as such lived according to the tradition of the Catholic Church.

The other was **William Grimshaw** who died in 1640. Bradfer-Lawrence surmises that he began as rector in 1606, so had a long tenure as rector of the church during the reign of Charles I some time after the reformation.<sup>iii</sup>

**Will of Mr Dyx**, clerk and parson of Castell Rysing dated 21 Jun 1491

Desires to be buried in the chancel of Rysing. Leaves to the High Altar there "ij awter clothes" I bequeath a table cloth of diaper to Saint Johnis awter and to every other awter as far as my lynnyn will stretch thereto an awter cloth. I leave 40/- to the upkeep of the church. To the Corpus Christi gild 12d. To our lady's gild 12d, to St' Lawrence's gild 12d. To the Trinity gild 12d. I leave 40s to the church work of E. Dereham and 40s to the poor; then 20s tp the church work of Beteley and 20s to the poor; 10s to the church work at Hunstanton and 20s to the poor and to the reparacions of the Chapell there 30s.

To Isabel my neice I leave a bed with a donge [*mattress*], 2 blankets and 2 sheets, 6 coverlets with Estrich feathers and a black cow of the dette John Lowe oweth me.

To Avelyn my cousin, a white cow and my sangewyn gown furred. To my godson Wm. Warboys my Ryding gown of bleue and if he be a preste my portuos [*I don't know what this is*]. To Thomas Sherman my grene gowne and the hood. The residue I leave to my executors Ralph Slater of N. Wootton, Sir John Wade preste and Sir John Penycok clark parson of Babingley.

**Will of William Carter**, late Parson of Castell Rysing proved 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1505.

He desires to be buried in the chancel of Rysing church and bequeaths ¾d to the high altar and 40s to the upkeep of the church. I bequeath ¾d to each of the high altars of Newton, Sandryngham, Babyngly, Appilton, Grymston and Bawsey. To the church of Bawsey 20s and to the church of Soffam [*Swaffham*]

**Will of William Grimshaw** of Castle Rising 1640.

Item; I give to my son Thomas Grimshaw, now presently to a ship carpenter at King's Lynn, one cow and three pounds of lawful money to be delivered or paid to him *when* he shall have accomplished the terms of his apprenticeship.

Item, I give to my said sonne Thomas, feather bed, one (*illegible*). 2 pair of sheets with 3 platters and one silver spoon with a (*illegible*).

Item, I give my daughter-in-law Mary Halliday, one feather-bed, a Bible and one piece of flacks.

Item, I give to my son Nathaniel Grimshaw the somme of 12d to be payde immediately after my death.

Item, I give to my daughter Margaret, now wife to Hammond Baldwin £5 which is in the hands of my sonne Nathaniel Grimshaw to be paid upon the feast of St. Michael Archangel next ensuing, a day above written, the rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever I give to my said daughter Margaret and I make her executrix .....

Hamond Baldwin

William Grimston

*The contrast between the first two wills and the third will is marked and seems to reflect the large changes which we know to have taken in the organisation of the church after the reformation. The first two had no family to leave their worldly possessions to, and they donated their worldly possessions to specific churches and to the poor. The earlier one donated money to the guilds, which presumably were still operating in Castle Rising at the end of the fifteenth century.*

*By contrast, the Grimshaw will is not very dissimilar from those of lay people of the same period. He had a family although there is no record of a wife living at the time of his death. One of his sons was becoming a sailor, apprenticed in King's Lynn. He seems to be a little more wealthy than average and like many of the Castle Rising residents, had been in possession of a cow.*

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<sup>i</sup> From newspaper clipping from Castle Rising Parish Magazine nov. 1927 *vide* Bradfer-Lawrence collection NRO.

<sup>ii</sup> Bradfer Lawrence collection NRO. Original in Somerset House, London.

<sup>iii</sup> NRO O.W. 2/5 microfilm.