

## CIRENCESTER AREA WILLS 1551 – 1560

### 1553/2

In the name of God, Amen. The 8<sup>th</sup> March 1552 I Annis Foxley, widow, of the parish of Duntisbourne Abbots in Gloucestershire, being sick in body yet nevertheless in perfect memory, do make & ordain my testament & last will after the manner & form that follows. First I commend my soul to Almighty God & my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I bequeath to the mother church of Worcester 2d. Item I give & bequeath to the poor men's box in the church of Duntisbourne Abbots 4d. Item I give & bequeath to Joan Hoggys a ewe & a lamb. Item I give & bequeath to Annis Hoggys a ewe. The residue of my goods & chattels, my debts paid & my funerals done, I give & bequeath freely to Thomas Gyll whom I make & ordain my sole & only executor.

These witnesses: Sir James Parlabyn, curate, Nicholas Flye & William Hardyng, parishioners there

Probate: 8 April 1553

### 1555/67

In the name of God, Amen. The 10<sup>th</sup> March 1556 I Richard Grobbe of Coates in the diocese and county of Gloucester, being sick of body but perfect of mind & in good remembrance, make my last will & testament under this form & manner following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my saviour for ever to remain with the heavenly company, my body to be buried as my executors shall think mete convenient. Also I bequeath to the mother church of Gloucester 4d. Item I bequeath to Christopher my son & to Eleanor my daughter a cow betwixt them. Item I bequeath to Grace my daughter & to my youngest child each of them 2 sheep and to every one of my said children a pair of sheets & to the youngest my greatest pan of brass. And if any of my said children do decease before the age of 16 years then I will that the part of the same so deceased shall be divided among my said children equally that be living. The residue of all my goods unbequeathed I give freely & wholly to Joan my wife whom I make & ordain to be my sole & whole executrix to dispose for my soul's health accordingly and I do ordain & appoint Roger Grobbe my brother and William Coppe my neighbour to be overseers that this my last will be performed & fulfilled.

These bearing witness: Thomas Best, parson of Coates my ghostly father, Walter sheton, William Coppe, Thomas Weving with others

Probate: 26 March 1556

*On reverse of document date written as 1555*

### 1556/138

In the name of God, Amen. The 27<sup>th</sup> March 1555 I William Wright of Bagendon in the diocese of Gloucester being perfect of memory do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God to be associate with the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried within the churchyard of the parish church of Bagendon. Also I give & bequeath to Thomas the son of Henry Denton 2d. The rest of all my goods & chattels here not given neither bequeathed, my debts paid & my funeral expenses discharged, do give & bequeath to Margery & to Margaret my daughters to be equally divided & parted between them. And it happen any of them to die before the day of their marriage then I will that the portion of her so dying shall remain to her sister surviving. The which Margery I do ordain & appoint my sole executrix of this my last will & testament. And also do ordain & appoint John a Mynde, clerk, parson of Bagendon, to be overseer of the same according to this my last will & testament.

These bearing witness: John a Mynde aforesaid, Richard Hawker, clerk, parson of  
Colesborne & John Eycote  
By me John a Mynde abovesaid  
By me Richard Hawker parson of Colesborne

Debts the which the said William Wright does owe  
To the church of Bagendon 8s 2d

Debts owing & due to the said William Wright  
Thomas Wright his son for barley 7s 3d  
For a boar pig 3s  
For a sow 4s  
Lent to the said Thomas to buy wool 10s  
Lent to him before his marriage 3s 4d  
The whole sum of the debts due to the said William Wright with the value of the  
goods contained in the inventory, the said debts the which the said William Wright  
does owe allowed, comes to £3 18s 9d  
Probate: 21 June 1556

#### 1557/116

In the name of God, Amen. The 26<sup>th</sup> February 1556 I Joan Brode, widow, of the  
parish of Duntisbourne Abbots, being in perfect mind & memory, do make my will &  
last testament after this form & manner following. First I bequeath my soul to  
Almighty God, to his blessed mother St Mary and unto all the celestial company of  
heaven and my body to be buried in Duntisbourne aforesaid. Item I bequeath to the  
high altar of Duntisbourne 4d. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Litle 2 sheep. Item I  
give & bequeath to Richard Litle 2 sheep. Item I give & bequeath to William Litle 5  
sheep. Item I give & bequeath to Richard Brode my son 6 sheep of the best, a tod of  
wool if any be then left with that that I have in keeping of his own and a cow and also  
I will that John Brode have the milk of the said cow until Michaelmas next during the  
days hereof & also I give & bequeath to the said Richard Brode a flaxen sheet & a  
hardon\* sheet. Item I give to Richard Litle's wife my best kirtle with the camlet  
sleeves, my best cape and my best kerchief. Item I give to John Brode's wife dwelling  
in Herefordshire my best petticoat. Also I bequeath one sheep to Thomas Brode and  
another to Anthony Brode, the sons of John Brode. Also I give a load of wool to bring  
me home honestly with dirges and Mass and other divine service and the residue of  
the wool to be divided among poor folk of the said parish by the oversight of John  
Brode & John Turnar the elder. All the residue of my goods not bequeathed I give to  
John Brode whom I do ordain & make my executor to accomplish and fulfil all these  
my bequeaths and legacies above expressed. And also I do ordain and make John  
Turnar senior my overseer of this my last will and testament to be accomplished and  
fulfilled.

Witness: Thomas Taylour, clerk & William Hardine  
Probate: 7 December 1557

*\*hardon= coarse material made from flax*

#### 1557/201

In the name of God, Amen. The 26<sup>th</sup> February 1556 I John Mortunne of the parish of  
Siddington, more sick in body but perfect of memory, make my testament & last will  
in manner following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God & to all the holy

company of heaven, my body to be buried in the holy sepulchre. Item I give to the church of Siddington more 4d. Item I give & bequeath to Richard Eles my sword. The residue of my goods moveable & unmoveable I give & bequeath to Alice my wife whom I make my full executrix to fulfil my will and to pay my debts. With these witnesses: William Faucunner, Richard Elys, Humphrey Cake with others  
 Probate: 7 May 1557

### 1557/301

In the name of God, Amen. The 11<sup>th</sup> August 1557 I Richard Damsell of Baunton in the parish of Cirencester in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, being sick in body but whole an perfect in mind, make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to God Almighty, to our lady St Mary and to the blessed heavenly company, my body to be buried in the churchyard of Cirencester aforesaid. Item I give and bequeath to the mother church in Gloucester 4d. Item I give and bequeath to the high altar in Baunton 4d. Item I give and bequeath to John my son 2 acres of barley and 2 calves, the one an ox calf and the other a cow calf. Item I give and bequeath Thomas my son 1 cow calf. Item I give & bequeath William my son 1 cow calf. Item I give & bequeath to Alice my daughter 4 cocks of barley. Item I give & bequeath Thomas Freme my son-in-law 1 acre of barley growing in barley stone. Item I give & bequeath Lucy & Anne my daughters 4 bushels of barley. Item I will that John my son shall have 5 acres of barley every year as long as he is servant with his mother at her proper cost & charge. Item I give & bequeath to Ellen my wife all the rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable whom I make my full and sole executrix, my debts, legacies and funerals discharged. And I make my overseers of this my last will Thomas Walker, James Burgys & for their pains to see this my last will performed 8d every of them whom be here present at this my last will making.

(*torn*) my debts

To Edmund Starlyng after St Martin's day next ensuing	£4	3s	4d
To Richard Shyld		40s	
To Michael the shepherd	£4	6s	8d
To John Hardyn of Harnhill		26s	8d
To John Gurney of Cirencester		20s	
I owe in debt to the church of Baunton		18s	
The sum	£14	14s	8d

Probate: 14 September 1557

### 1557/382

The last will & testament of Sir Thomas Best, parson, of Coates within the diocese of Gloucester, made the 11<sup>th</sup> May 1555 and in the second & third years of the reigns of our sovereign lord and lady Philip and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of England, France, Spain, both Sicily, Naples, Jerusalem and Ireland, defenders of the faith etc.

In the name of God, Amen. I Sir Thomas Best, parson of Coates in the diocese of Gloucester, being sick in body but thanks be given unto Almighty God of good & perfect mind, do make & ordain this my last will and testament in manner & form following. First I do bequeath my soul to Almighty God, the lord & giver of all goodness, to our blessed lady St Mary & to all the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried in the chancel of the parish church of Coates aforesaid. Item I do give & bequeath to the mother church of Gloucester 12d. Item I do & bequeath to the

parish church of Coates 5s in money or else a pair of candlesticks worth 5s. Item I do give & bequeath to Sir Thomas Marshall, priest of Cirencester, my best gown. The residue of all my goods & chattels not given nor bequeathed I do give & bequeath to John Pownteney my brother-in-law whom I do make & ordain my whole & sole executor. And I will the said John to levy & gather up all such debts which are owing to me the day of my death and to pay & discharge all such debts as I do owe the day of my death & to discharge all my legacies & to see me honestly brought on earth & to pay my funerals & all duties due to be paid to the church & all officers of the church for the same with the oversight of Sir Thomas Marshall, priest, whom I do ordain & make to be my supervisor of this my last will & testament to be truly performed & kept.

These persons bearing witness: Thomas Wyat, Nicholas Dolman, Sir Thomas Marshall & Peter Gery with others

The inventory of all the goods & chattels belonging to Sir Thomas Best, priest & parson of Coates, made & praised the 16<sup>th</sup> May by Thomas Weavyng, Richard Munden & Thomas Wyat 1557 & in the 4th & 5th years of the reigns of our sovereign lord and lady Philip and Mary, by the grace of God King and Queen of England, France, Spain, both Sicily, Naples, Jerusalem and Ireland, defenders of the faith etc.

1 feather bed, 1 flock bed, 2 bolsters, 2 blankets,	
2 pair of sheets, 2 coverlets & a bedstead	40s
A truckle bed with the appurtenances	13s 4d
3 sheets & 4 shirts	10s
2 gowns, 2 coats, 2 doublets & 2 pair of hose	33s 4d
A coffer, a stool, a table board, a press, 2 andirons & a broach	8s
All his books	13s 4d
A nag, saddle & bridle	20s
A pair of boots	2s
Sum total	£6 17s

Probate: 14 September 1557

### 1557/487

In the name of God, Amen. The 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1557 I William Barow of the parish of Daglingworth, being sick in body & of good & perfect remembrance, do make this my testament & last will in manner & form as here follows. That is, I give & bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to all the holy company of heaven & my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I give & bequeath to my six children £4 to be equally divided between them, that is to every of them 13s 4d. The rest of my goods & chattels neither given nor bequeathed, my debts being fully paid, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Barow my wife whom I make my whole executrix to the performance of this my last will & testament.

In the presence of: Mr William Phelpes and John Brodoc of Cirencester

Hereafter follows the particular names of the debts I the said Barow do owe.

First to John Brodon 24 bushels of barley and 20s in money. Item William Barow 40s.

Item to John Barow 12s. Item to John Grenwey 12s. Item to Thomas Wyckes 10s.

Item to Giles George 6s 8d. Item to Harry Swyfte 22s 6d. Item to Thomas Watson 6s

8d. Item to the church of Daglingworth 10s

The sum of the debts beside the barley is £6 9s 5d

The sum of the barley at 16d the bushel is 32s

Sum £8 17s

Probate: 14 September 1557

**1558/52**

In the name of God, Amen. I Kelam Byrte of Duntisbourne Rouse in the (*torn*) the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1558 being sick (*torn*) thanks be to God of good and perfect memory do make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and Our Blessed Lady and to all the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried in the churchyard. Item I give and bequeath to my parish church of Duntisbourne a bushel of wheat. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas my son two oxen, two the youngest horses, an iron bound cart and a quern. Item I give and bequeath to my son Richard an iron band. Item I give and bequeath to William my son 8 bushels of barley. Item I give and bequeath to my godson John Byrte a sheep. Item I give and bequeath to Reginald my son-in-law 8 bushels of barley. Item I bequeath and give to Alice Cooke 2 sheep. Item I give and bequeath to Edmund Jennyns 6 bushels of wheat. Item I give and bequeath to Joan my daughter a yearling heifer, 4 sheep, a flock bed, a coverlet, a charger dish, a platter, a pottinger, a saucer, a brass pot and a pair of sheets. And all the residue of good unbequeathed moveable and unmoveable I bequeath, will and give to Edie my wife and Barbara my daughter whom I appoint and do presently make my executrixes of this my last will and testament.

Being to me witnesses thereunto: John Morwent and Nicholas Freman with others  
 Probate: 11 February 1558

**1558/99**

In the name of God, Amen. The 7<sup>th</sup> December 1558 I Sir Guy Hyll, vicar of the church of Preston in the deanery of Cirencester in the diocese of Gloucester, with a whole & perfect mind make my testament & last will in manner & form as here follows. First I bequeath my soul into the merciful hands of Almighty God & my body to be buried in the chancel of Preston church. Item I bequeath to Preston church 5s. I bequeath to Alice Joy, wife of Harry Joy of Northleach 40s & my second (*torn*). Item I bequeath to John Benet 20s. Item I bequeath to Harry Hopper 20s. Item I bequeath to every one of the poor people dwelling within Saint John's House of Cirencester 2 apiece & to every one of the poor people of St Thomas's House 2d apiece, & to every one of the poor Friday's people 2d apiece. Item I bequeath to Ellen Prysse my maid 3s 4d. Item to the priest that shall anoint me & bury me & say Mass 3s 4d. Item I do make to be the overseers of this my last will & testament to be fulfilled William Tome, parson of Barnsley & Giles Tallyar, parson of Driffild & I do give to either of them for his pains 10s apiece. The residue of my goods, my debts & my legacies paid, I do give to William Turbell now dwelling in Saint John's House & I do make him my whole executor.

These be the witnesses: Richard Sprote, Richard Hardyng, John Hamlete with others

**Debts due to me**

First & second ..yelre for his tithes that he has not  
 paid for this year past

26s

William Hamlett for his tithes that he has not  
 paid for this year past

28s 8d

William Blacwell & John Blacwell for  
 their father's inventory

6s 8d

of the said William & John to high altar

20d

William Kerbe

3s 9d

Richard Hamlette, farmer

6s

**1558/186**

In the name of God, Amen. be it known unto all men by these presents that I Julian Dollman of the parish of Coates in the diocese & county of Gloucester, widow, the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1558 do make this my last will & testament in manner & form as hereafter follows. That is I bequeath my soul to Almighty God & my body to be buried in Christian burial. Item I bequeath to the mother church 2d. Item I give and bequeath to the nursing & breeding up of the child that I now go with as yet unborn £3. Item I give and bequeath to the said child if it be a man child 20s, if it be a woman child 26s 8d. Item I give and bequeath to Giles Dollman my son 20s. Item I give and bequeath to Thomas Dollman my eldest son of that name 20s. Item I give to John Dollman my son 20s. Item I give to Thomas my youngest son of that name 20s. Item I give & bequeath to Joan Dollman, Agnes Dollman, Isabel Dollman, my three daughters £4 by even portions. Item the rest of all my goods & chattels, my debts paid and these my foresaid legacies performed, I give & bequeath to all my sons & daughters by even & equal portions so that the child that I now go withal may have as good part as any of my other children of the said goods & chattels. Item my will is that my said goods, chattels & legacies shall be in the custody of John Hamerston, Walter Hamerston & John Dollman of Oxey by the delivery & full consent & agreement of William Coxe & Thomas Wyet to the use of my children aforesaid & not otherwise until every one of my said children for his or their part come to the age of 24 years, provided always that if any of my said children happen to marry before the said age then my will is that he or they that so marries shall have his or their part or portions delivered unto him or them well & truly at the day of the marriage with all the profits that can be made thereof if any be. Further my will is that if any of my foresaid children happen to die before the said age of 24 years & unmarried that then all their legacies, portions & parts with the profits thereof if any be shall remain & be delivered by equal portions unto the rest of my children that shall then be in life without guile or fraud. And to the true performance of this my last will & testament I do ordain & make the said John Hamerston, Walter Hamerston & John Dollman of Oxey my executors & William Coxe & Thomas Wyette aforesaid overseers & aiders of the same as my trust is in them.

Witness hereof: Thomas William, parson of Coates, and the foresaid Thomas Wyette.

Probate: 16 March 1558

**1558/313**

In the name of God, Amen. The 19<sup>th</sup> September 1558 I Nicholas Sly of the parish of Duntisbourne Abbots, sick in body, perfect in mind, make my last will and testament in this form & manner. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, our lord the Christ, to our blessed lady St Mary and all the holy company of heaven. Item I bequeath to the mother church 4d, to the church of Duntisbourne a bushel of malt. Item I bequeath to Thomas my son one sheep, to William my son 2 sheep, 3 curnocks of barley to be paid at 2 times. Item Maud my daughter 2 sheep, a heifer of a year of age, a curnock of barley. Item I bequeath to William my russet coat, my doublet, my best hose. Item I bequeath to John the son of John Hoskyns a sheep. Item to Joan the daughter of John Sly a sheep. Item to Dorothy a sheep. Item to Joan my daughter my black whether. Item the cupboard that is in the hall to be a standard there. Item to John Hoskyns a curnock of barley. Item to Sir Thomas the curate to pray for me 12d. The rest of my goods moveable & unmoveable to Joan my wife and Thomas my son whom I make my full executors, my debts paid. The debts be these; Giles Roberts 16s, to John Hoskyns 10s 4d.

Witnesses: Thomas Wyman, William Hardyng, Thomas Tuymayay, curate there.

Roger Batt 6d, Thomas Gylle 5d, William Herdyng 6d, John Sly 3s 4d, Richard Bawre 10s

Probate: 11 December 1558

**1558/584**

In the name of God, Amen. The 8<sup>th</sup> August 1558 I William Okold of the parish of Duntisbourne Abbots, being whole of mind and good & perfect remembrance, laud & praise be unto God, make & ordain this my present testament concerning herein my last will in manner and form following. That is to say, first I commend my soul to Almighty God my maker & redeemer & my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Duntisbourne Abbots. Item I give & bequeath to the mother church of Gloucester four pence and to the high altar of Duntisbourne Abbots two pence. Item I give & bequeath to John Okold my eldest son 6 sheep & a yearling beast a year of age. Item I give & bequeath to Philip Okold my son six sheep. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Okold my son six sheep & a yearling beast a year of age. Item I give to my son Hugh Okold 6 sheep. Item I give & bequeath to John Okold my youngest son 6 sheep & a yearling beast a year of age. All the sheep & beasts given & bequeathed to my sons afore named I will that they and every one of them shall have the foresaid sheep and beasts to have them yearly one after another, first the eldest & so in the time that the youngest be served yearly one after another. If any of these my sons do marry in the mean so soon he to be served of his bequest at his marriage. And if any of these my sons do die before his marriage the goods to be distributed among the other brothers afore named. Item I give & bequeath to John Cowlley, son of Thomas Cowlley, one sheep to be delivered at 16 years of age. All the residue of my goods not given nor bequeathed I give freely to Margery my wife & to Richard Okold my son whom I make my executors of this my present testament or last will & after my wife's widow's estate I give to Richard Okold my son my tenement & house. Witnesses of these things: John Turner & Thomas Turner with others  
Probate: 9 November 1558

**1559/65**

In the name of God, Amen. The 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1558 I Henry Kempe of Siddington in the county of Gloucester, husbandman, sick in body but whole of mind and perfect memory, thanks be to God, make my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Siddington foresaid. Item I bequeath to Thomas my son five marks. Item I bequeath to my son Robert five marks, one cow and one calf. Item I bequeath to Joan my daughter twenty nobles. Item I give and bequeath to my son William five marks. Item I bequeath to my son Richard five marks. Item I bequeath to my son James five marks. Item I bequeath to my son John five marks. Item I bequeath to Harry my son five marks. Item I give and bequeath to Roger my son five marks provided always that the legacies given and bequeathed unto my foresaid children shall be in the occupation of my wife until they come to the age of 21 years. And if it happen any of the said my said children to die before they come to the age aforesaid that then the legacies of him or them so dying shall be distributed amongst the longest livers of them equally. Item I give to my cousin Joan a calf to be delivered at her marriage. Item I give to the cathedral church of Gloucester 4d. Item to the high altar of Stratton a taper price 4d. Item to the church of Siddington Mary a bushel of barley or malt. Item to the high altar of Siddington a taper price 4d. The rest of my goods moveable and unmoveable I give and bequeath to Joan my wife whom I do ordain and make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament and she to pay my debts and legacies and receive my debts.  
Witnesses: Thomas Kyte, William Foular and Richard Herst with others  
Probate: 6 April 1559

**1560/70**

in the name of God, Amen. The 4<sup>th</sup> September 1558 I John Ealdes of the parish of Duntisbourne Rouse, husbandman, being sick in body but whole & perfect in mind & remembrance, thanks be unto God, do make my last will & testament in manner & form following. First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to our blessed lady St Mary & to all the whole company heaven & to the holy suffrages of the holy mother the Church & my body to be buried within the churchyard of Duntisbourne Rouse. Item I bequeath to the church of Duntisbourne 2 bushels of barley & one bushel of wheat. Item I bequeath to John Ealdes my eldest son my great cauldron, a malt quern & a cistern but his mother to have the occupying of it during her life. Item to William Eldes my son a quarter of barley & 4 bushels of wheat. Item to Richard Ealdes a quarter of barley & 4 bushels of wheat. Item to Joan Ealdes my daughter £4 of money, a brass pot & a brass pan, a platter, a pottinger, a saucer, to be dd [given] at the day of her marriage. Item I bequeath to Joan Filpote a ewe & a lamb. Item I give & bequeath to Alice Barton a ewe & a lamb to be dd [given] at the month's mind. Item I give & bequeath to Elizabeth Spenser a ewe & a lamb. Item I bequeath to Thomas Heywarde my servant 2 bushels of barley. Item I bequeath to Maud Heywarde 2 bushels of barley.

**1560/138**

In the name of God, Amen. The 15<sup>th</sup> November 1558 I Richard Heynes of Daglingworth within the county & diocese of Gloucester, being of a good & perfect memory, do make & cause to be written this my last will & testament in manner & form following. First as faith wills me I bequeath my soul to Almighty God & to the blessed company of heaven and my body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Daglingworth aforesaid. Item I give & bequeath to the mother church of Gloucester 2d. Item to the high altar of the said parish church of Daglingworth 2d. Item I give & bequeath to John Heynes my son four sheep. Item I give & bequeath to Thomas Heynes my youngest son of that name four sheep. Item I give & bequeath to Agnes Denton my daughter four sheep. Item I give & bequeath to Robert Heynes my son twenty sheep with 24 bushels of barley. Item I give & bequeath to the children of Agnes Wilkyns for their relief one bushel of barley. Item I give & bequeath to the said Robert Heynes my son one brass pot, one platter, one porringer, one saucer with one candlestick, all which my said legacies of corn & chattels & of other goods given & bequeathed to my said children & to the children of the said Agnes Wilkyns I will to be delivered to them & to every of them at & upon the month's day next after my decease. The residue of all my goods & chattels here not bequeathed, my debts paid and my funeral expenses discharged, I give & bequeath to Thomas Heynes my eldest son of that name whom I ordain & make my sole & only executor for the performance of this my last will & testament and to use & bestow the said goods & chattels not bequeathed as he upon his discretion shall think good & expedient to the pleasure of Almighty God.

These being witnesses: John Grenewey, Thomas Ridler, John Heynes my son, Richard Gesses to whom & to every of them I give 6d desiring them to oversee that this my last will & testament be truly executed & performed.

Probate: 12 October 1560