



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
CHURCH
RECORDING



RECORD OF CHURCH
FURNISHINGS OF GRAY'S
ALMSHOUSES CHAPEL,
TAUNTON.



The Arts Society Church Recorders are dedicated to the promotion of Church Heritage throughout Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

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**GRAY'S CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**

**TA1 3NA
Redundant Chapel. National Grid reference ST231245**

The Arts Society Record of Church furnishings by the Taunton Evening Group of Church Recorders, started in 2018 and completed in 2020.



900 Front Elevation

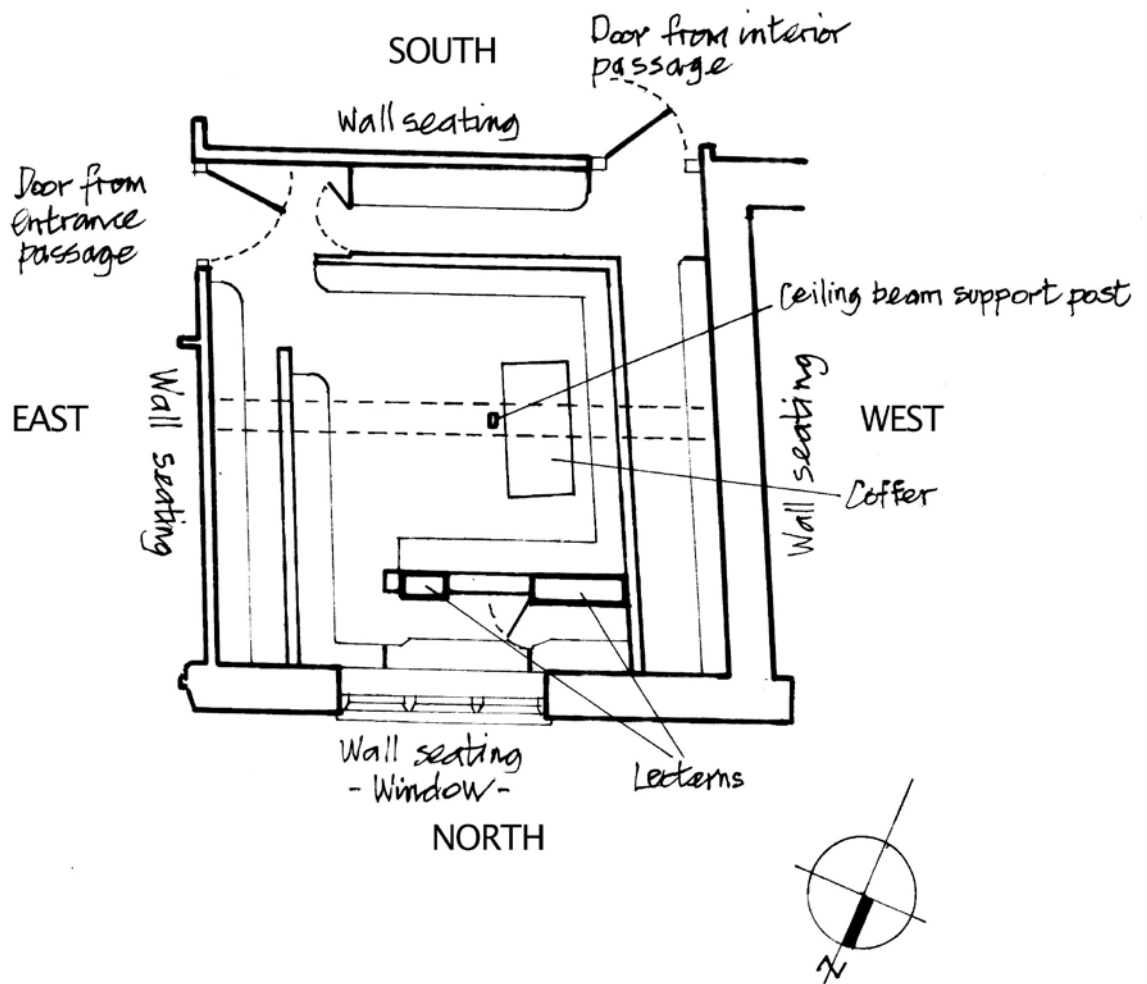
The chapel sits within the building of Gray's Almshouses in East Street, Taunton. Robert Gray built the terrace of almshouses in 1635. He was born in Taunton but made his money/fortune in London. The building is of two-storeys, with similar mullioned windows on each level and three entrances. Above two of the entrances are coats of arms: those of Robert Gray, and of the Merchant Taylors. The almshouses are among the oldest surviving brick buildings in Somerset, and the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society suggest that it is unlikely there are any older.

In the 1960's the Trustees of Gray's Almshouses handed over the administration to the Taunton Town Charity, later to become, in 2002, Taunton Heritage Trust.

The chapel was originally used for prayers, meetings of the residents and payment of pensions distributed from the large oak coffer in the centre of the room which eventually became a store for the bibles and hymn books. In 1988-1989 a complete refurbishment programme was carried out to the sheltered accommodation and the chapel also underwent refurbishment but it remained, as near as was possible, to its original form.

English Heritage designated the building as Grade 1 Listed in June 1952.

GRAY'S CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET



PLAN OF CHAPEL
Internal dimensions 483 x 465 cm

**GRAY'S CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**



900 East and South



900 South and West

**GRAY'S CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**

This Record was supported by the Taunton Evening Arts Society, with a grant from The Arts Society towards the cost of photography and printing.

We are grateful for the help and interest of the Chief Officer, staff and trustees of Taunton Heritage Trust and also to Somerset County Record Office.

SECTION NUMBERING

001 - 099	Memorials
100 - 199	Metalwork
200 - 299	Stonework
300 - 399	Woodwork
400 - 499	Textiles
500 - 599	Paintings
600 - 699	Library
700 - 799	Windows
800 - 899	Miscellaneous

CHURCH RECORDERS

Ken Burgess, Donald Ruffell
Elizabeth Fothergill, Tony Eggar
Godfrey Carey
Patricia Bray, Ken Burgess,
Godfrey Carey, Tony Eggar,
Elizabeth Fothergill, Donald Ruffell,
Richard Samuel
-
Patricia Bray, Ken Burgess,
Tony Eggar, Donald Ruffell
Patricia Bray, Ken Burgess,
Godfrey Carey, Tony Eggar,
Elizabeth Fothergill, Donald Ruffell
Tony Eggar
Elizabeth Fothergill

Group Leader
Photographers
Compilers/Typist
Artist

Elizabeth Fothergill
Tony Eggar & Caroline Briggs
Tony Eggar & Elizabeth Fothergill
Richard Samuel

The numbers 1 – 10 in the left-hand margin under the item number refer to:-

- 1 Description.
- 2 Material.
- 3 Date.
- 4 Measurements.
- 5 Artist, Architect, Designer, Sculptor, Woodworkers, etc.
- 6 Manufacturer.
- 7 History of item or family.
- 8 Donor and date of presentation to Church.
- 9 Inscription.
- 10 References.

Terminology is mostly as used in Inside Churches, A Guide to Church Furnishings,
NADFAS 1993 ISBN 0954019105

**The TIFF digital photographs of this Record are stored at the Historic England
National Archive, Swindon.**

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**GRAY'S CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**

ABBREVIATIONS

c.	about
C.	century
caps. & l/c	capitals and lowercase lettering
cm	centimetres
d.	died/depth
CRO	Somerset County Record Office
diam	diameter
dr.	drawing
est.	estimate
h.	height
l.	length
n/a	Not available
Ph(s)	Photograph(s)
Pub.	Published
SPCK	Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge
THT	Taunton Heritage Trust
w.	width

BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCES

Reference Books

Dunning, R *A Careful Trust: the history of Taunton Heritage Trust. 2017*
Toulmin, J *History of Taunton 1822*
Bond, C *The Taunton Town Charity 2005*
Philips Son & Neale, Valuers. *Insurance document November 1989*
Stansells (Builders) Ltd. *Taunton's Famous Landmark Restored 1989*
Hall, L *Period houses fixtures and fittings 1300-1900*

Terminology is mostly as used in,

Inside Churches - A Guide to Church Furnishings, NADFAS Enterprises Ltd 2001
ISBN 0-9514062-2-1
Period House – Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900, Linda Hall. Reprinted 2017
ISBN 978-1-85306-742-6

**GRAY'S CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**

SUMMARY OF NAMES in this Record excluding the Benefaction Board (504), Registers and Records (600) and References.

Gray	Robert	001, 507, 508.
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SUMMARY OF ARTISTS, SCULPTORS, MANUFACTURERS etc (excluding general printers and publishers)

STANSELLS (BUILDERS) Ltd Restoration 1988-1989	Restoration builders
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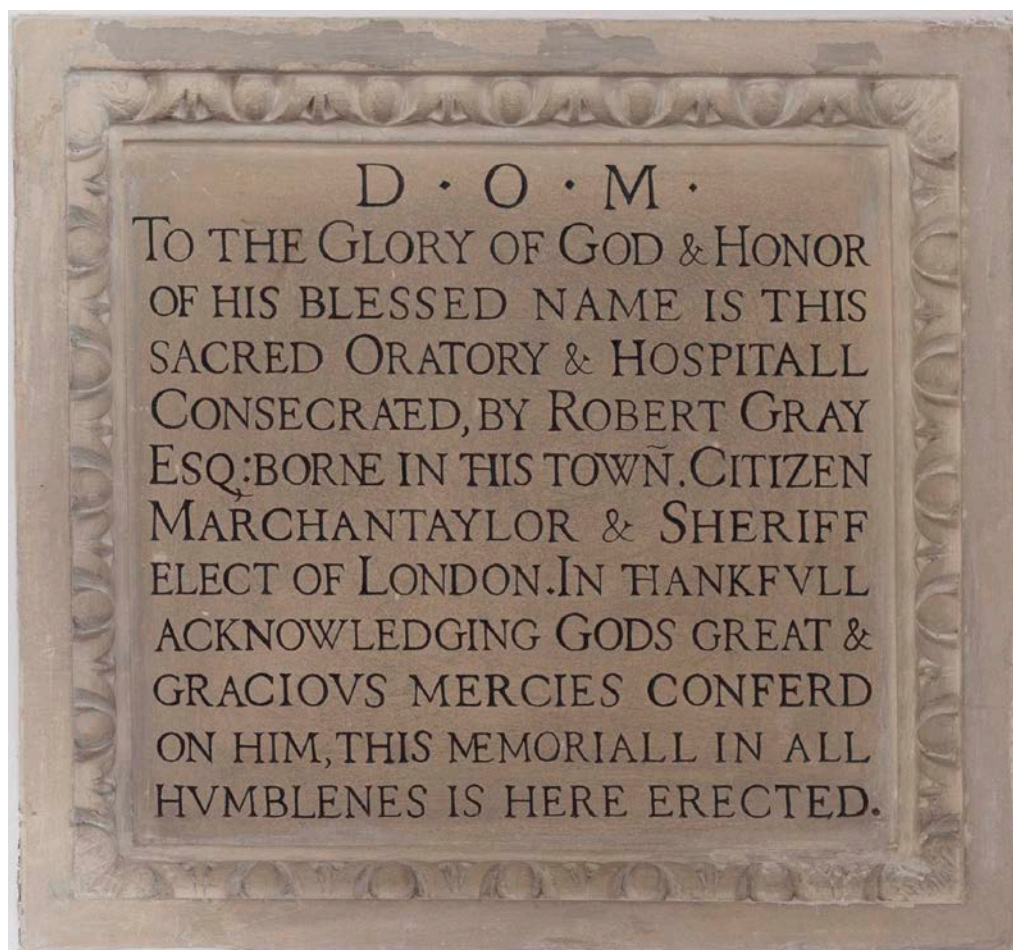
The condition of items in this Section appears to be satisfactory unless otherwise stated.

000 WALL TABLET Ph

W Wall

- 1 A stone memorial wall tablet in good clean condition, within a moulded frame recessed in the west wall. The moulding has a simple chamfer outside a combined egg and dart and waterleaf enrichment. The memorial carries an inscription to the founder of the almshouses. The lettering is incised in roman caps with 'v' used for 'u' and some letters used in ligature.
- 2 Stone
- 3 1635 (ref a.)
- 4 h. 52 x w. 55 x d. 4cm
- 5-7 -
- 8 Robert Gray died in 1635, the year the Almshouses opened (ref a)
- 9 The inscription reads:

D.O.M. / TO THE GLORY OF GOD & HONOR / OF HIS BLESSED NAME
IS THIS / SACRED ORATORY & HOSPITALL / CONSECRATED, BY
ROBERT GRAY / ESQ: BORNE IN THIS TOWN. CITIZEN /
MARCHANTAYLOR & SHERIFF / ELECT OF LONDON. IN THANKFVLL /
ACKNOWLEDGING GODS GREAT & / GRACIOVS MERCIES CONFERD
/ ON HIM, THIS MEMORIAL IN ALL / HVMBLENES IS HERE ERECTED.
Trans: Deo Optimo Maximo To God the good and the great
- 10 a) A Careful Trust: The History of Taunton Heritage Trust by Robert Dunning, retired Somerset County Archivist.



000

The condition of items in this Section appears to be satisfactory unless otherwise stated.

100 **KEYS Ph**

S Wall

- 1 A bunch of several iron keys hanging from the end of one bench on an iron hook not attributed to any items in the chapel. Keys vary in size with bows similarly plain.
- 2 Iron
- 3 -
- 4 Length 10 - 18cm
- 5-10 -



100

**GRAYS CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**

STONEMASONRY

200 NONE

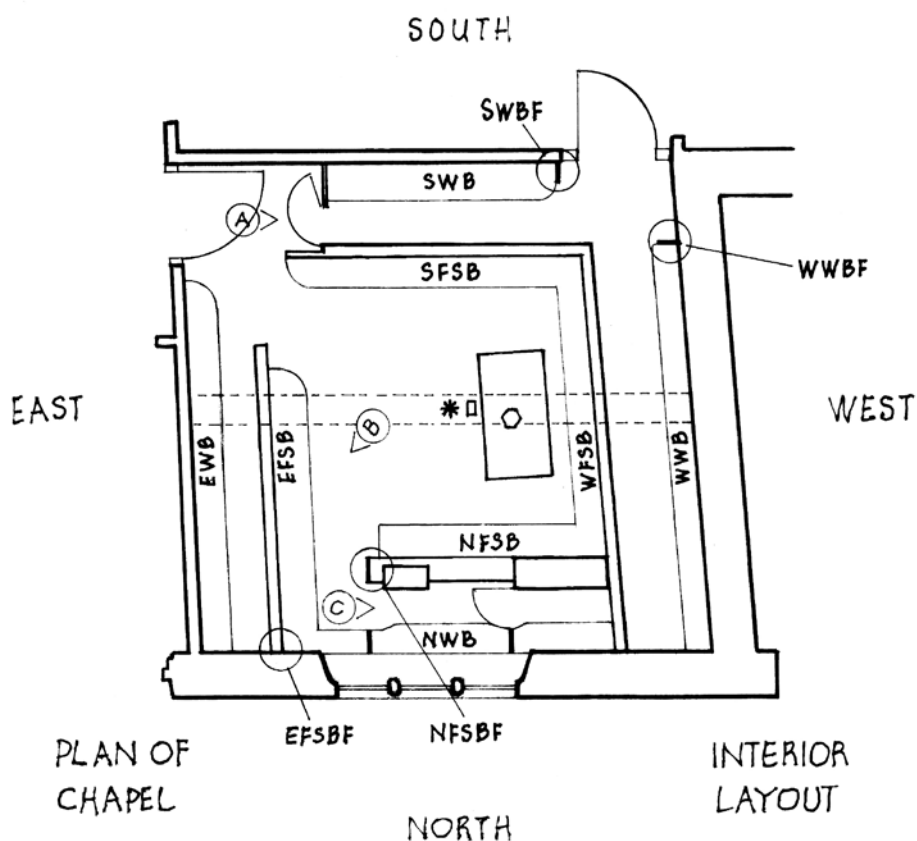
GRAYS CHAPEL, TAUNTON, SOMERSET

Woodwork

The condition of items in this Section appears to be satisfactory unless otherwise stated.
In this section please note that poppyheads are referred to as finials on the plan e.g. WWBF

300 Benches Ph Dr

Walls



KEY

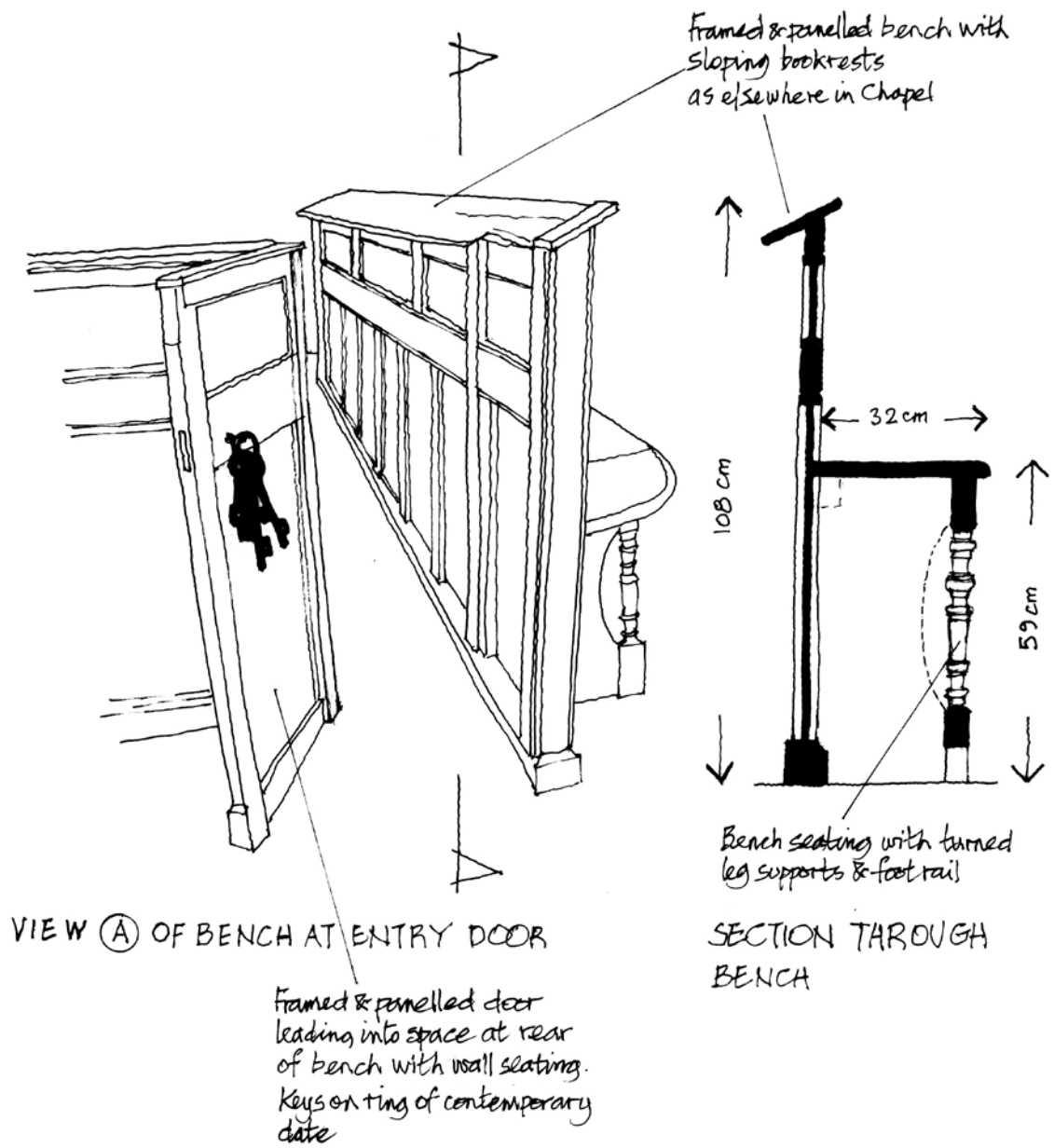
- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|---------------------------------|
| EAST | { | EWB | East wall bench |
| | | EFSB | East freestanding bench |
| | | EFSBF | East freestanding bench finial |
| SOUTH | { | SWB | South wall bench |
| | | SWBF | South wall bench finial |
| | | SFSB | South freestanding bench |
| WEST | { | WWB | West wall bench |
| | | WWBF | West wall bench finial |
| | | WFSB | West freestanding bench |
| NORTH | { | NWB | North wall bench |
| | | NFSB | North freestanding bench |
| | | NFSBF | North freestanding bench finial |
- (A) > View of bench at entry door **SFSB**
- (B) > View of freestanding bench **EFSB**
- (C) > View of stalls for clerk & priest **NFSB**
- Coffin
- * Post supporting ceiling beam above

300A

Plan of Chapel with bench references

- 300.i **Bench Ph Dr** **EWB**
- 1 Simple oak bench fixed to east wall and supported by two block legs and three angled wall brackets down to floor. There are no back or solid bench ends, one end being flush with north wall and the other, ending by main chapel door, with a curved end. The front edge of the bench seat has a decorative grooved edge.
 - 2 Oak
 - 3 17th c (ref a)
 - 4 h. 56 x w. 355 x d. 29cm
 - 5-9 -
 - 10 a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989
- 300.ii **Bench Ph Dr** **EFSB**
- 1 Freestanding oak bench that includes the poppyhead EFSBF at north end and a simple block bench end at the other. The poppyhead is simply carved being flat with curved head. The bench back is framed including rectangular panels with sloping book rests for the readers behind in EWB. An upper rail, turned spindle legs and a cross foot stretcher, supports all of the seats on the freestanding benches in the centre of the chapel. The front edge of the bench seat has a decorative grooved edge.
 - 2 Oak
 - 3 17th c (ref a)
 - 4 h. 59 x w. 276 x d. 32cm
 - 5-9 -
 - 10 a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989
- 300.iii **Bench Ph Dr** **SWB**
- 1 Simple oak bench fixed to south wall. The end nearest the main chapel door has a rectangular panelled bench end and door. The door is attached with two round-headed butterfly hinges and secured with a plain iron latch. The panel is secured to the bench by two iron brackets. The opposite bench end is topped by a poppyhead SWBF comprising of two inward facing simple scrolls one at a lower level to the other. This poppyhead style features as a reference in the publication (ref b.) dated 1635. The bench is open-ended allowing access to the west wall bench WWB. The seat, with a decorative grooved edge is supported by one central oak block and is carved to curve into the narrower bench end.
 - 2 Oak
 - 3 17th c (ref a,b)
 - 4 h. 59 x w. 227 x d. 34cm
 - 5-9 -
 - 10 a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989
b) Period houses fixtures and fittings 1300-1900
- 300.iv **Bench Ph Dr** **SFSB**
- 1 Freestanding oak bench with chamfered back, rectangular panels and sloping bookrest decorated with a grooved edge. The bookrests are mitred with the west freestanding bench. An upper rail, turned spindle legs and a cross foot stretcher, supports all of the seats on the freestanding benches in the centre of the chapel. The front edge of the bench seat has a decorative grooved edge.
 - 2 Oak
 - 3 17th c (ref a)
 - 4 h. 109 x w. 296 x d. 30cm
 - 5-9 -
 - 10 a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989

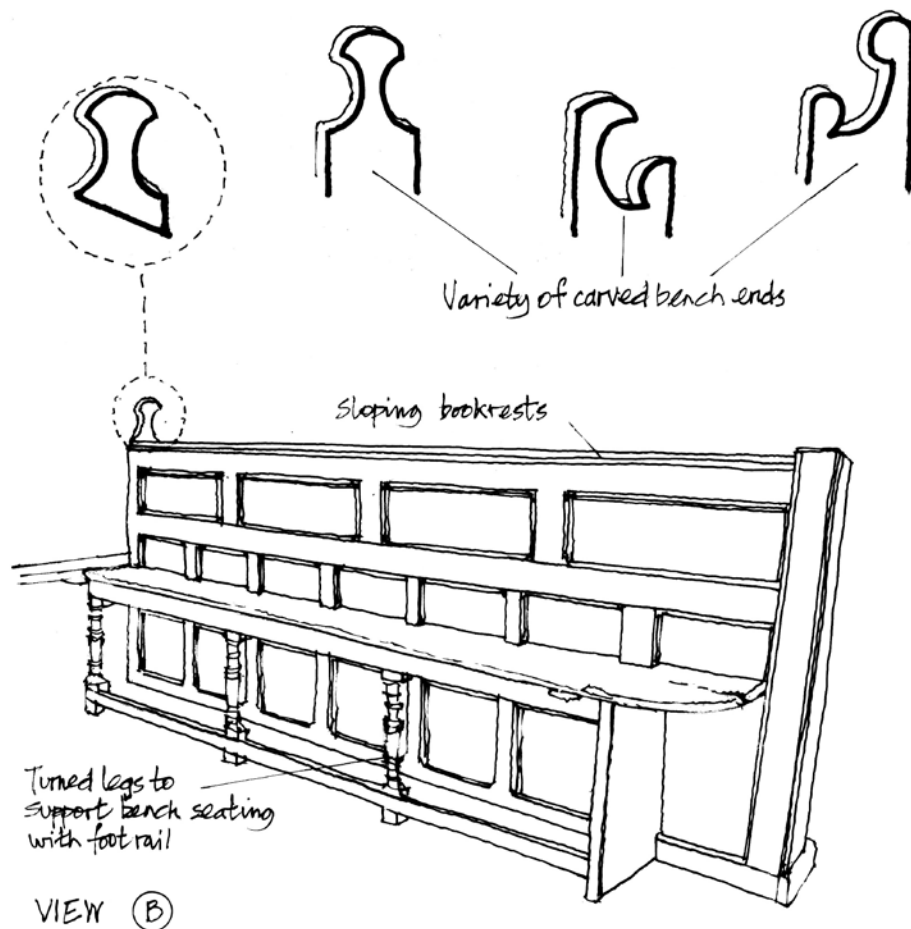
300.v	Bench Ph Dr	WWB
1	Simple oak bench fixed to west wall and supported by three rough block legs and one wall bracket down to floor. No back. One solid bench end with poppyhead WWBF similar to adjoining corner SWBF. Opposite end flush to wall. The front edge of the bench seat has a decorative grooved edge.	
2	Oak	
3	17 th c (ref a,b)	
4	h. 56 x w. 355 x d. 29cm	
5-9	-	
10	a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989 b) Period houses fixtures and fittings 1300-1900	
300.vi	Bench Ph Dr	WFSB
1	Freestanding oak bench with chamfered back, rectangular panels and sloping bookrest decorated with a grooved edge. The bookrests are mitred with the south freestanding bench. An upper rail, turned spindle legs and a cross foot stretcher, supports all of the seats on the freestanding benches in the centre of the chapel. The front edge of the bench seat has a decorative grooved edge.	
2	Oak	
3	17 th c (ref a)	
4	h. 109 x w. 385 x d. 33cm	
5-9	-	
10	a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989	
300.vii	Bench Ph Dr	NWB
1	Oak bench roughly divided into three sections with joined panel backs of rectangular design. West end of bench includes a priest's pew with desk rising above seat back and bookshelf below. The area is gated and panelled, one square and one rectangular. The gate is secured by two iron 'H' hinges. Additionally there are two other benches of differing seat widths divided by a small panel. Plain grooved bench ends creating dividers and support in conjunction with one centre wall bracket to the floor.	
2	Oak	
3	17 th c (ref a)	
4	h. 60 x w. 318 x d. 29cm (maximum and variable)	
5-9	-	
10	a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989	
300.viii	Bench Ph Dr	NFSB
1	Freestanding oak bench with chamfered back, rectangular panels and sloping bookrest decorated with a grooved edge. The back nearest the east end supports a later pine slotted lectern with a badly damaged footrest below. An upper rail, turned spindle legs and a cross foot stretcher, supports all of the seats on the freestanding benches in the centre of the chapel. The front edge of the bench seat has a decorative grooved edge. One solid bench end with poppyhead.	
2	Oak	
3	17 th c (ref a)	
4	h. 109 x w. 220 x d. 33cm	
5-9	-	
10	a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989	



300B Sketch of bench SFSB



300C East end detail of bench SFSB

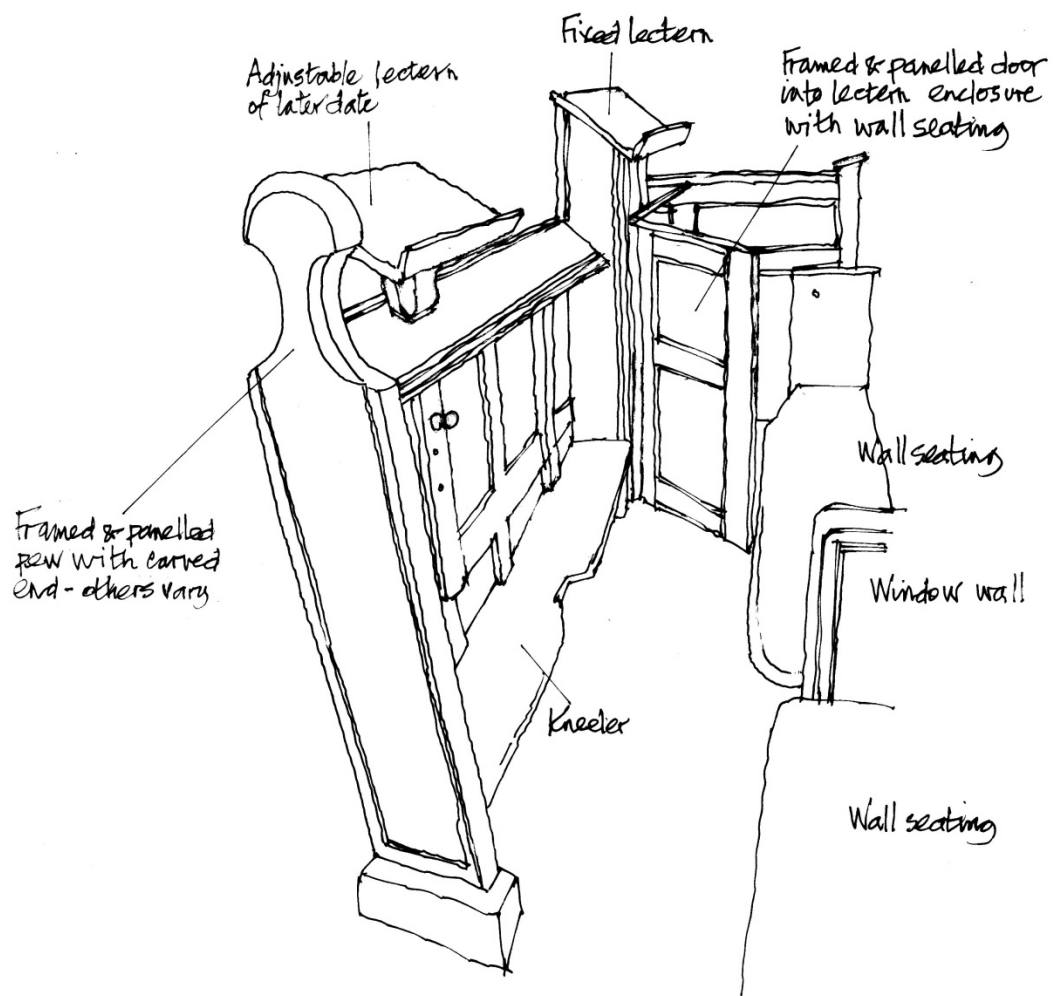


All benches face into - & surround - the centre of the chapel.
 Framed & panelled with sloping top & carved bench end.
 For standing & sitting.

300D Sketch of bench EFSB



300E Detail of bench end SWBF



VIEW (C) OF STALLS FOR CLERK & PRIEST

300F Sketch of Priest's pew and desk



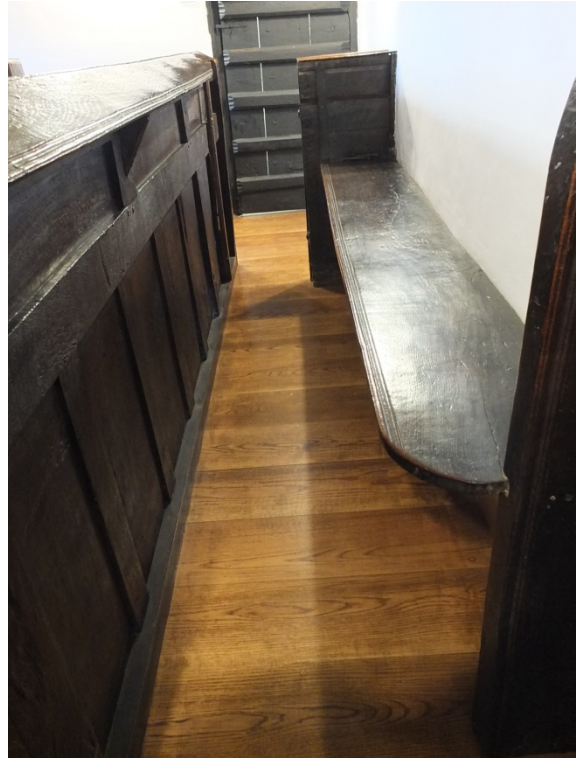
300G Priest's desk



300H Adjustable lectern



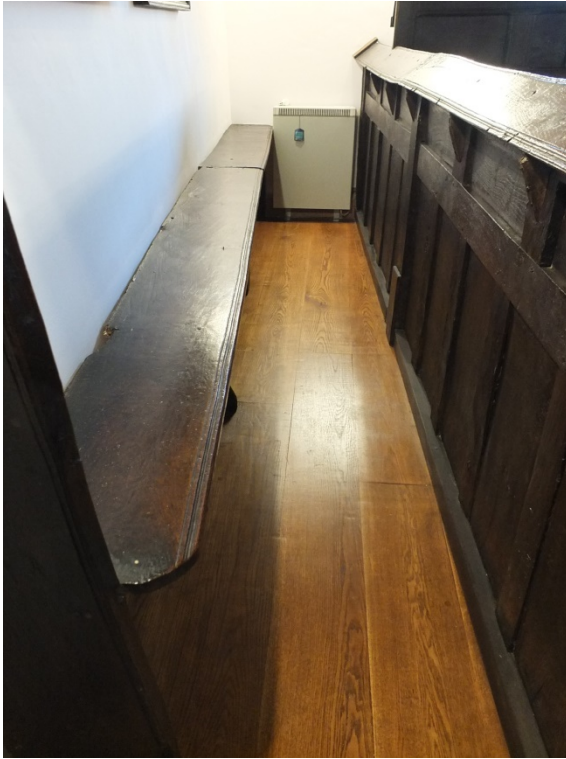
300I Priests pew and desk



300J Bench SWB



300K Bench EFSB



300L Bench WWB



300M Benches WFSB and NFSB



300N Bench SFSB

- 1 Substantial rectangular coffer of massive-nailed plank construction in central position within the Chapel & raised on stile supports. Hinged top with pair of internal strap hinges & additional internal central tee-shaped strap. Irregular paper strips fixed over joint in underside of plank top. Narrow wood strip recessed externally into top surface, loose at one end. Decorative key escutcheon plate fixed to outside front face. Internal lock case to coffer but no lock keep to underside of top. Limited evidence of earlier worm infestation.
Coffer interior contains:
A separate smaller box holding 2 bibles. Triple-hinged top with 3 lock cases on front face. Attached to coffer by substantial chain link stapled to rear face of box. Hasp & ball-shaped padlock closed.
A larger interior space holding a number of bibles & prayer books. Loose piece of wrought ironwork found beneath the smaller box, purpose unknown, but possibly part of strap hinge with tripartite splayed top.
4 loose nails found in larger space.
All keys missing.
- 2 Oak, finished externally with clear seal or varnish. Iron metalwork.
- 3 17th c (ref a)
- 4 h. 85 x w. 122 x d. 65cm
- 5-9 -
- 10 a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989



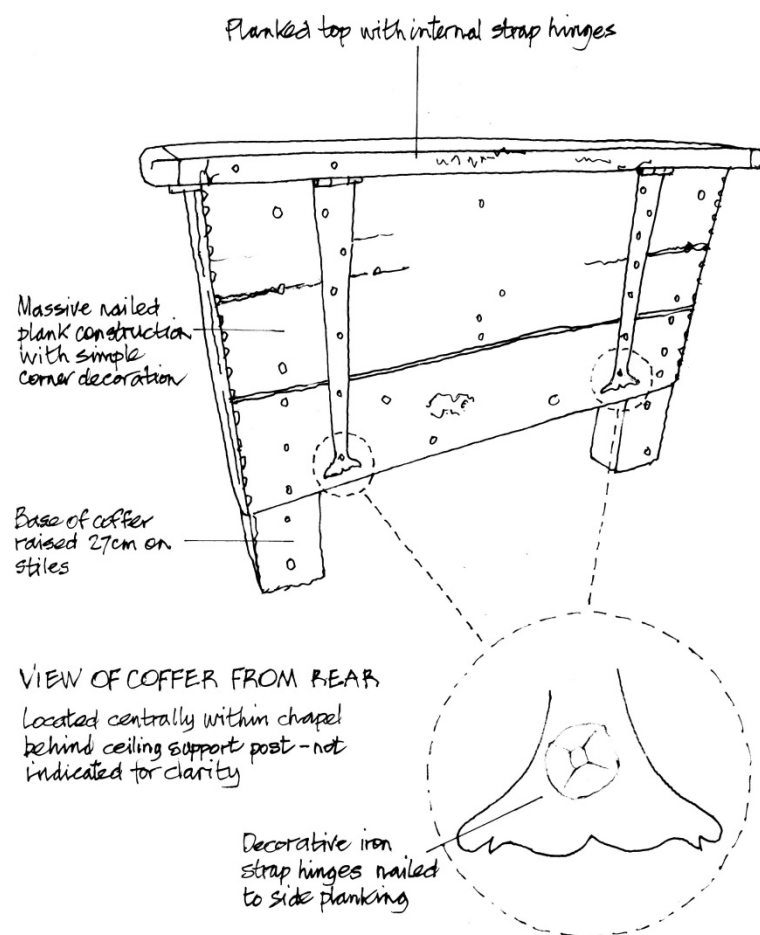
301A Coffer behind central post



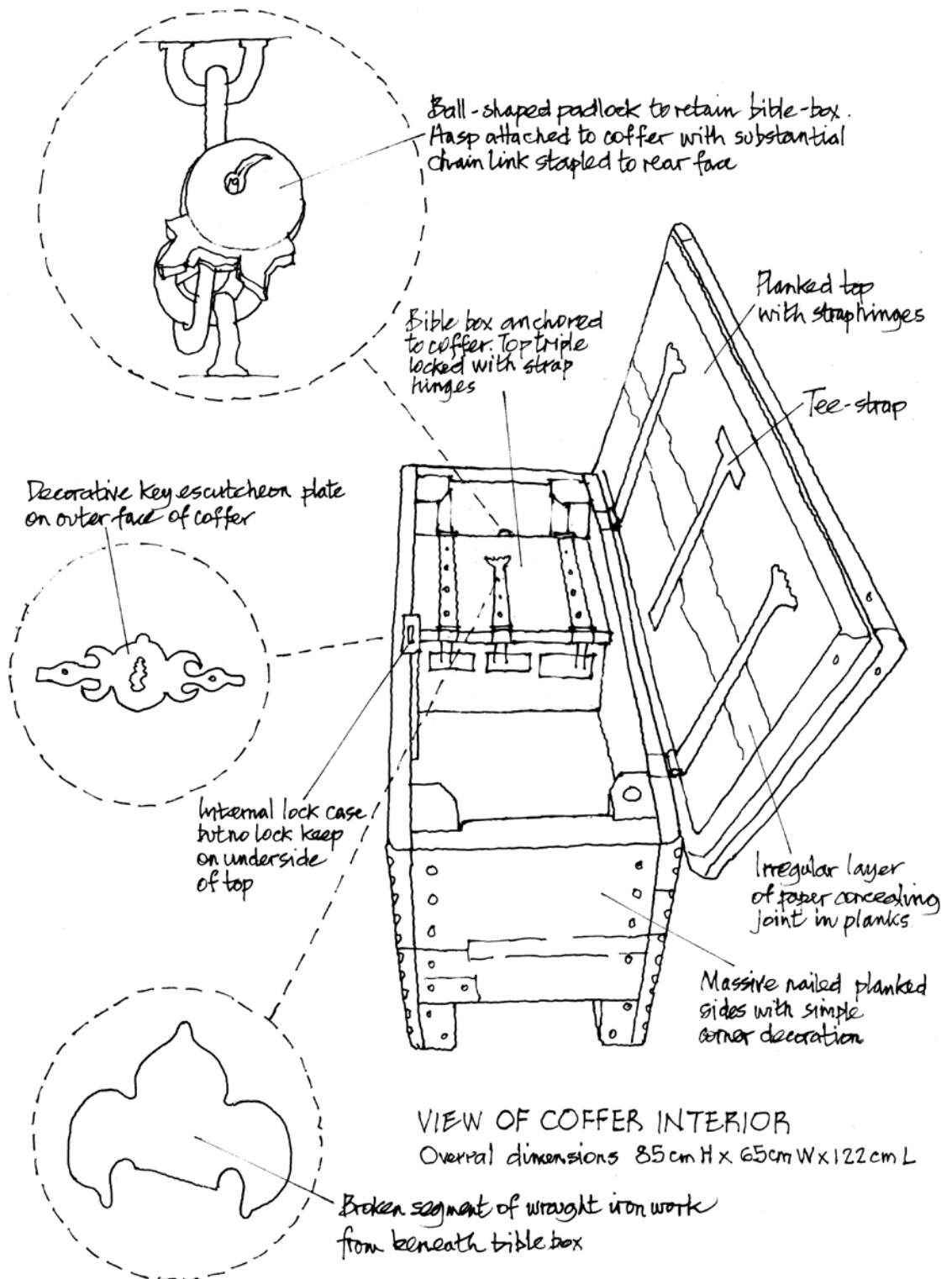
301B Top of Coffe



301C Detail of Coffe key escutcheon



301D Sketch of Coffe hinge details



301E Sketch of Coffin details

- 1 Square headed door of 3 planks with top and bottom plank rail in a moulded oak black painted frame. Incorporated in the door are a squint hole and an inverted keyhole. There is no door threshold.
Exterior: The door closes against the inner face of the doorway being 1.5cm wider than the frame. The base of the frame has small ironwork supports.
Furniture: An iron stirrup is attached by an iron staple. A latch has been added at a later date. Numerous clout nail heads are sited across the door staggered to create a uniform and diagonal cross pattern. Flush bent over small nail ends are visible and correspond to the interior hinges.
- Interior: 7 rails plus additional kick rail on base of door supporting the outer rail. The rails are chamfered with hand chiselled angled grooves on in and outer edges.
- Furniture: An oak lock box is sited bellows rails 2 and 3. Square coach bolts secure lock box to door which includes an inverted keyhole and working bolt. A large (18cm) cabinet 17th century iron key operates the lock. Door frame houses 3 keeps, one not original. 2 17th century wrought iron strap hinges are screwed into the plaster adjoining the frame
- 2 Oak, iron
- 3 1635 (ref a)
- 4 h. 188 x w. 78 x d.3cm
- 5-9 -
- 10 a) Stansell's (Building) Ltd; Town's Most Famous Landmark Restored 1989



302A Main Chapel door interior view



302B Main Chapel door exterior view



302C Main Chapel door lock detail



302D Main Chapel door hinge detail

- 303 **Side door Ph** **S wall**
- 1 Shallow arched door on a square headed frame of black painted oak. Frame shows evidence of 20th century repair and additions. A threshold of 14cm height and 10cm depth is attached to the door frame.
Exterior: Three black painted oak planks supported by four rails and clout nail heads visible. Flush bent over small nail heads correspond to interior hinge. The door closes on the outer frame of the doorway.
Interior: 5 rows of clout head nails visible. 4 rows with 6 heads, centre row with 5 heads where 20th century latch added. Opening is 174cm x 72cm.
Furniture: The wrap-round pin-hung strap hinges are attached to the crosspiece. The lock box in oak is attached by three large clout nails with original shoot bolt beneath and large iron keep on door frame.
 - 2 Oak, iron
 - 3 1635 (ref a)
 - 4 h. 185 x w. 82 x d. 2cm
 - 5-9 -
 - 10 a) Stansell's (Building) Ltd; Town's Most Famous Landmark Restored 1989



303A Side Chapel door interior view



303B Side Chapel door exterior view



303C Side Chapel door latch detail



303D Side Chapel door hinge and head

**GRAYS CHAPEL,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**

TEXTILES

400 NONE

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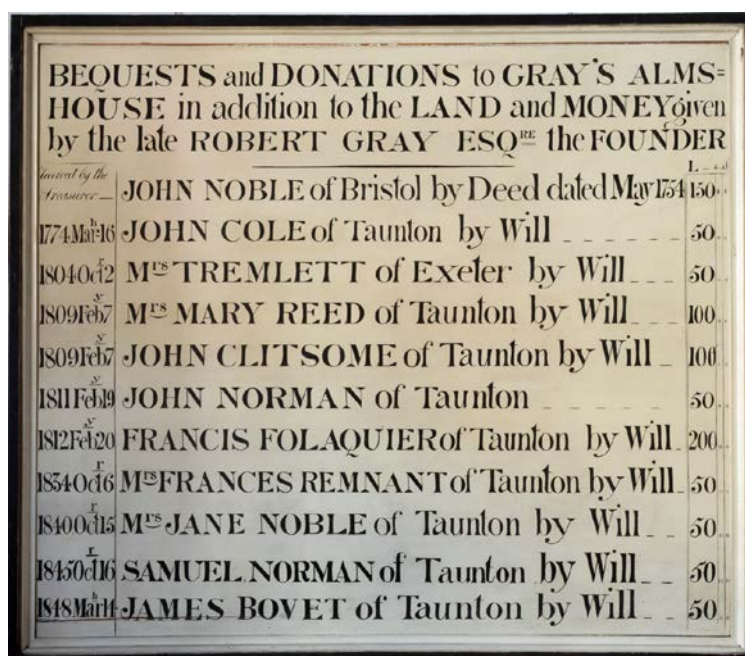
500	ROYAL ARMS	None
501	HATCHMENT	None
502	BENEFACTION BOARD Ph	E wall

- 1 A white painted board bordered by a cavetto moulding also painted white augmented by the addition of a rectangular wooden surround frame painted black. A list painted in black of BEQUESTS and DONATIONS to GRAY'S ALMSHOUSE in addition to the LAND and MONEY given by the late ROBERT GRAY ESQ^{RE} the FOUNDER. The names of eleven donors and the amount of their donations are then listed. All the text is in roman with both caps and l/c.

The board reads:

BEQUESTS and DONATIONS to GRAY'S ALMSHOUSE in addition to the land AND money given by the late ROBERT GRAY ESQ ^{RE} the FOUNDER		
Received by the Treasurer	JOHN NOBLE of Bristol by Deed dated May 1754	£-s.d 150..
1774 Mar ⁿ 16	JOHN COLE of Taunton by Will	50..
1804 Oct ^r 2	Mrs TREMLETT of Exeter by Will	50..
1809 Feb ^y 7	Mrs MARY REED of Taunton by Will	100..
1809 Feb ^y 7	JOHN CLITSOME of Taunton by Will	100..
1811 Feb ^y 19	JOHN NORMAN of Taunton	50..
1812 Feb ^y 20	FRANCIS FOLAQUIER of Taunton by Will	200..
1834 Oct ^r 16	Mrs FRANCES REMNANT of Taunton by Will	50..
1840 Oct ^r 15	Mrs JANE NOBLE of Taunton by Will	50..
1845 Oct ^r 16	SAMUEL NORMAN of Taunton by Will	50..
1848 Mar ⁿ 14	JAMES BOVET of Taunton by Will	50..

- 2 Wood, paint
3 19th c
4 h. 97 x w.112 x d.5 cm overall
5-10 -



502

- 1 A painted rectangular timber board decorated as two round headed arches and moulded window frames in stone coloured paint on a black painted ground within which are, on the left side, words from Exodus with a list of commandments headed with roman numerals I to IIII, and on the right side, a list of commandments headed with roman numerals from V to X . The lettering in gothic caps and l/c with long j used and in gold paint. Between the arches of the framed windows is a cartouche in gold with the Hebrew letters Y H V H in black (Yahweh. Trans. God) The board is in three sections and is in poor repair.

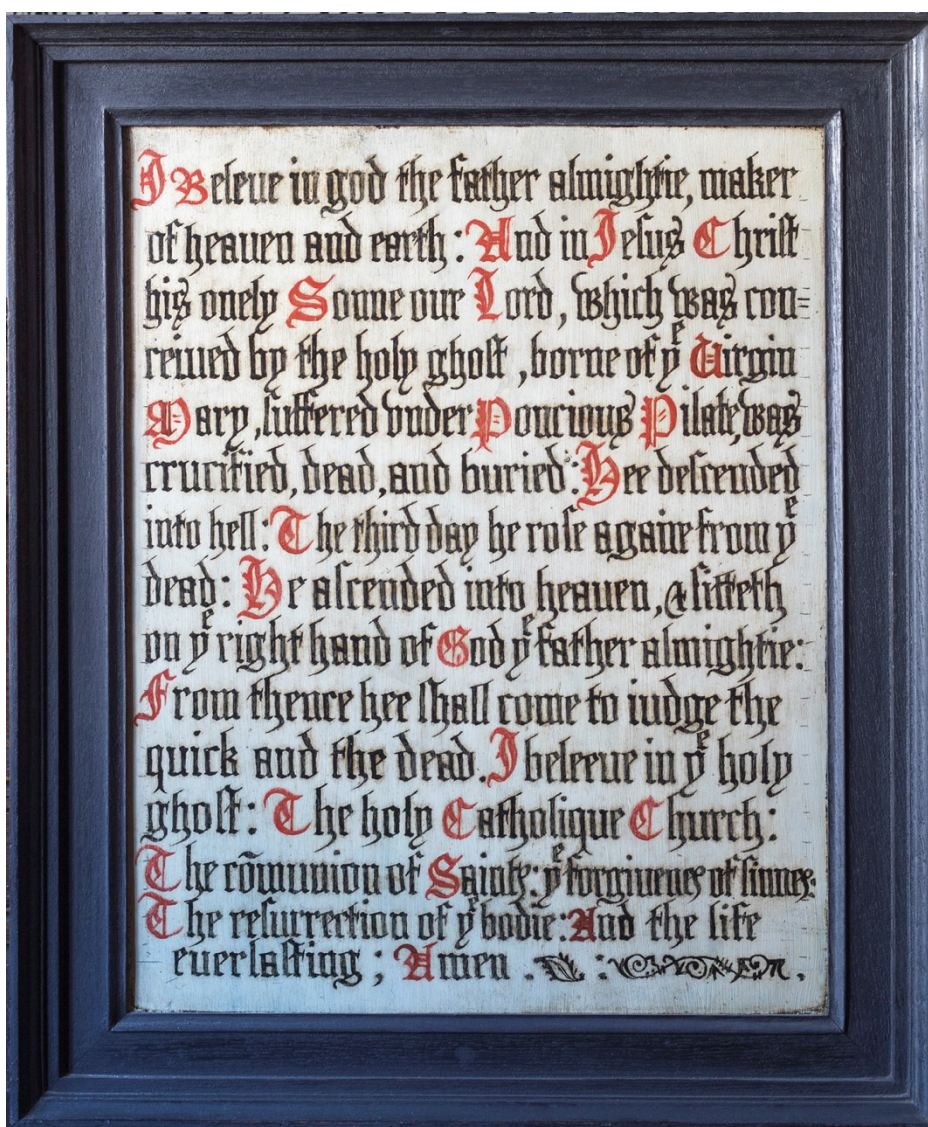
The left hand board reads / . Exodus. / God spake theſe words & / saide, I am ye Lord thy God / I. Thou shalt have none other Gods but me. / II. Thou shalt not make to thy self, any / grave Image nor ye likenes of any / thing ye is in heaven above, or in ye / earth beneath, or in ye water on top / ye earth: Thou shalt not bowe dow up / to ym nor worſhip them. For I ye lord / thy god, am a jealous god, & visit ye liars / of ye fathers upon ye children, on to ye / third & fourth generation, of ym ye hate me / & shews mercy onto thousands of them / ye love me, & keepe my commandments / III Thou shalt not take ye name of ye / Lord thy God in vaine: For ye Lord / will not hold him guiltles that taketh / his name in vaine. x . x . / IIII Remember ye thou keepe holy / the Sabbath day. Six days thou / shalt labour & do all ye thou halt to / do: But the ſeaventh days is the / ſabbath of ye Lord thy god. On it thou shalt do no manner of worke, thou & / thy sone. & thy daughter, thy manservant, / & thy maidservant & thy cattell, & ye stranger ye is within thy gate. / For in fixe daies ye Lord made heave & earth / the ſea & all ye in them is, And reſted ye / ſeaventh day: Wherefore ye Lord x / bleſſed the ſeaventh day & hallowed it. /

The right hand board reads / Chapter . XX . / .V. Honour thy father and / thy mother that thy daies may / belong in the land which ye Lord / thy god giveth thee. / VI / Thou shalt do no murther. / VII / Thou shalt not comit adulterie. / VIII / Thou shalt not steale. / IX / Thou shalt not bear falſe / witneſſe againſt thy neighbour / X / Thou shalt not covet thy neighbours / house, thou shalt not covet thy / neighbours wife, nor his ſervant. / Nor his maide , nor his Oxe, nor / his Asse, nor any thing that is his. /

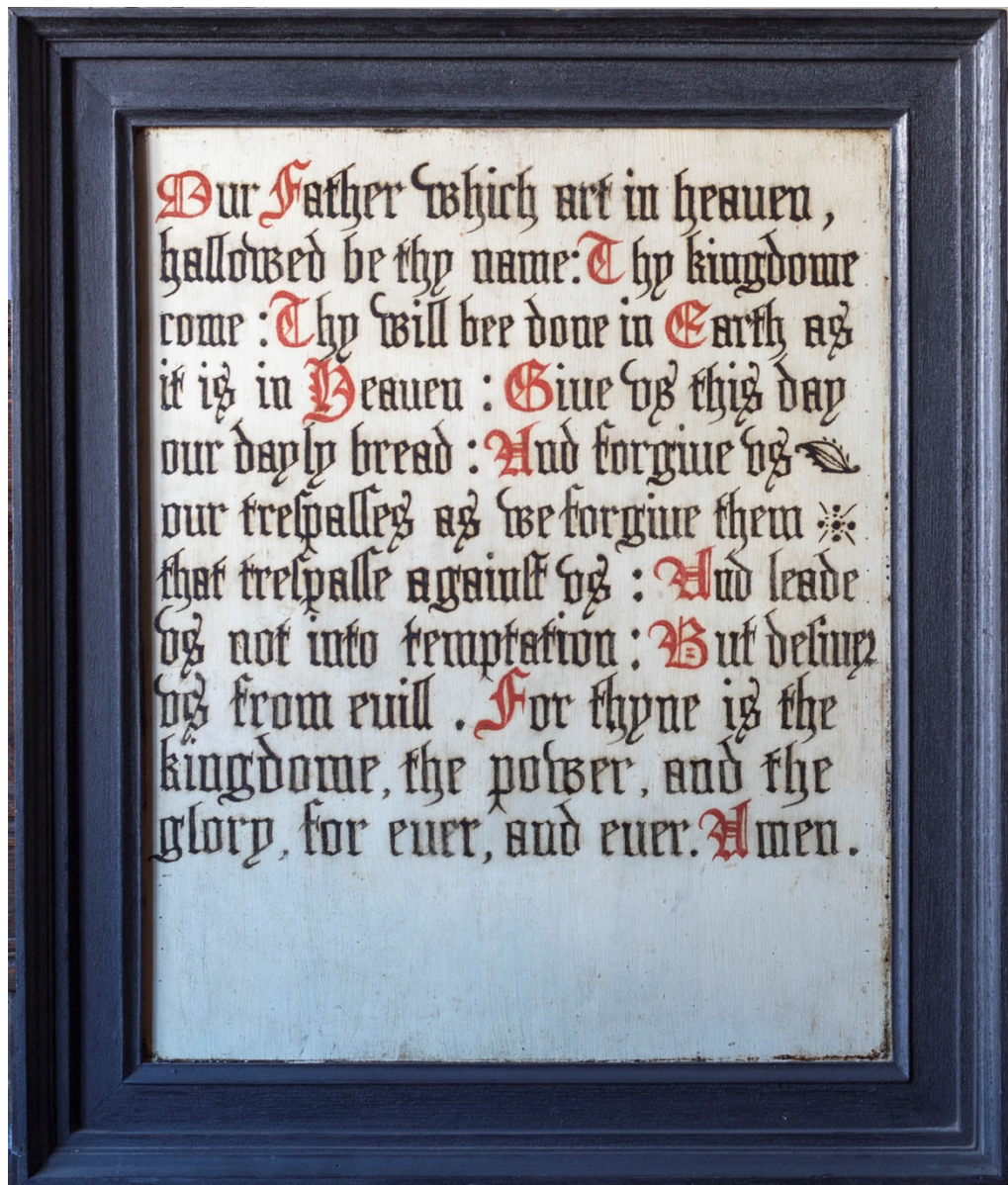
- 2 Wood, paint
- 3 -
- 4 h. 90 x w. 74 x d. 4 cm overall
- 5-10 -



- 1 A painted rectangular timber board on a white painted ground with words from The Creed. The lettering in gothic caps in red paint and l/c with long ſ used and in black paint.
The board reads / I Beleue in god the father almightie, maker / of heaven and earth: And in Jeſus Chriſt / his onely Sonne our Lord, which was con= / ceived by the holy ghofſt, borne of ye Virgin / Mary, ſuffered under Poncius Pilate, was / crucified, dead, and buried: Hee deſcended / into hell: The third day he roſe againe from ye / dead: H aſcended into heaven & liveth / on ye right hand of God ye father almightie: / From thence hee ſhall comr to iudge the / quick and the dead. I beleue in ye holy / ghofſt: The holy Catholique Church: / The communion of Saints: ye forgiveness of ſinnes: / The reſurrection of ye bodie: And the life / everlaſting ; Amen.
- 2 Wood, paint
- 3 -
- 4 h. 67 x w. 56 x d. 4 cm
- 5-10 -



- 1 A painted rectangular timber board on a white painted ground with words from The Lords Prayer. The lettering in gothic caps in red paint and l/c with long j used and in black paint.
The board reads / Our father which art in heaven, / hallowed be thy name: Thy kingdome / come: Thy will bee done in Earth as / it is in Heaven: Give us this day / our dayly bread: And forgive us x / our tre[p]a[ss]es as we forgive them x / that tre[p]a[ss]e again[st] us: And leade / us not into temptation: But deliver / us from evill. For thyne is the / kingdome, the power, and the / glory, for ever, and ever. Amen. /
- 2 Oil on wood panels
- 3 -
- 4 h. 68 x w. 57 x d. 4 cm
- 5-10 -



- 1 Coat of Arms of The Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors.
 Argent, a Tent Royal between two Parliament robes purpure, lined ermine, the tent garnished or, tent staff of the last, on a chief azure, a lion passant guardant or.
 Crest - On a wreath of the colours, a mount vert, thereon a lamb passant argent, all within a glory or.
 Supporters - Two camels or.
 Motto / CONCORDIA PARVA RES CRESCVNT. / Translation from the Latin - In harmony small things increase.
- 2 Wood, canvas, oil
- 3 17th c (ref a)
- 4 h. 93 x w. 74 x d. 4 cm
- 5-9 -
- 10 a) A valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989



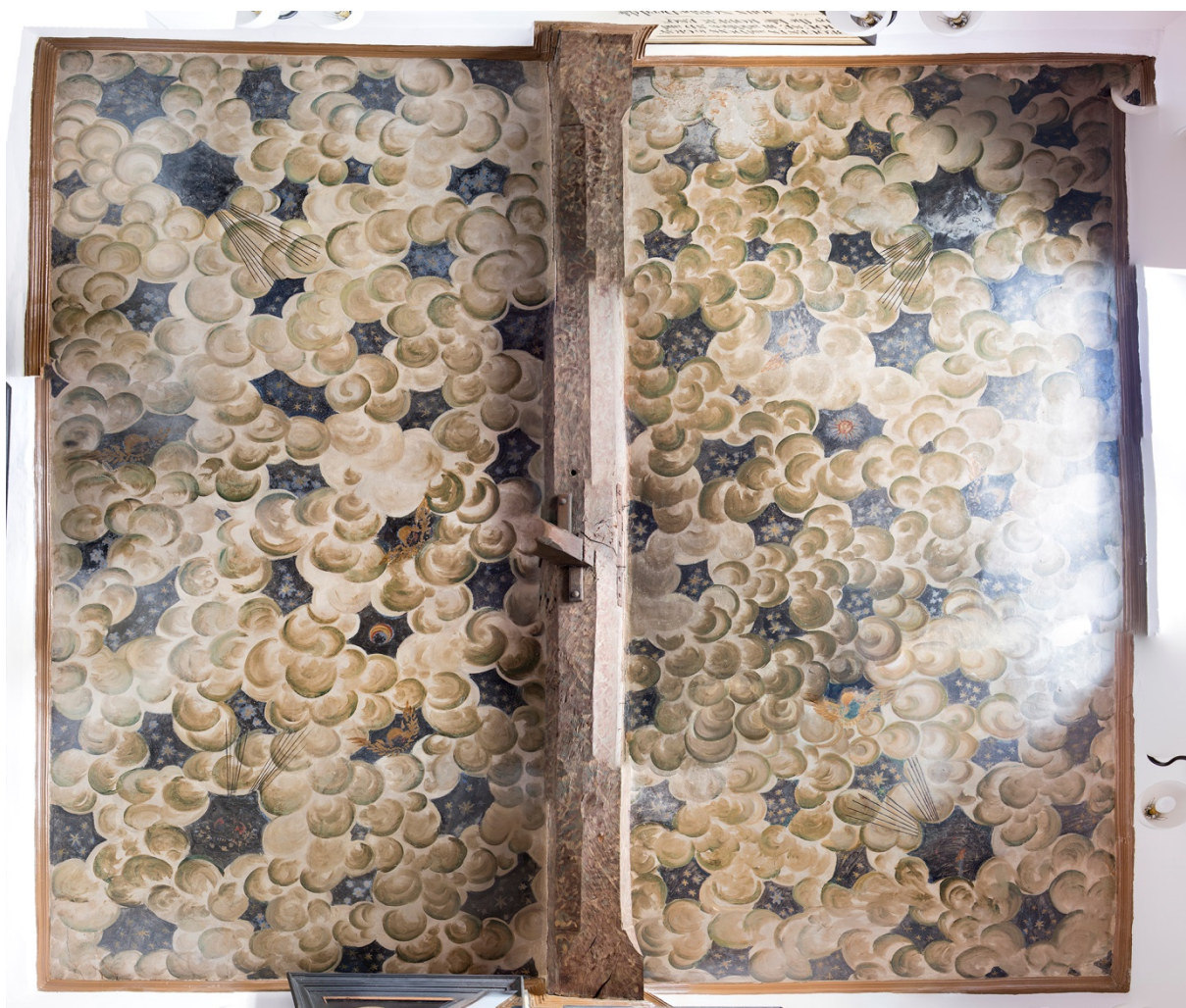
- 1 Portrait of a man dressed in fashion of the 17th century. Acknowledged as a likeness of Robert Gray, founder of the Almshouse (ref a). The painting shows a man with a trimmed grey beard and darker moustache. The red shoulders of his coat are slashed revealing a black coat. He wears a ruff and lace cuffs, holding gloves in his right hand. There is evidence of a re-used canvas as another pair of hands can be faintly seen on the front torso of the portrait. The black background bears 'AETIS' (age) '65' and Anno Domino 1635.
- 2 Oil on canvas
- 3 17th c (ref a)
- 4 h. 116 x w. 102 x d. 10cm
- 5 School of John de Critz (died 1642). Sergeant painter to Charles 1 (ref b)
- 6 -
- 7 May be a copy or identical painting in Municipal Hall Taunton
- 8-9 -
- 10 a) A Valuation of specific items for the purpose of insurance 1989
b) Oxford Dictionary of National Biography;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_de_Critz



- 1 Painted gold sans serif caps title script in medium and bold and on oak board.
Fielded oak frame with mitred corners matching the board.
The board reads:
THESE ALMSHOUSES / ARE ONE OF THE REMAINING /
RELICS OF / OLD TAUNTON. / THEY WERE BUILT & ENDOWED BY /
ROBERT GRAY, 1635. / WITHIN MAY BE SEEN MANY/ INTERESTING
PIECES OF / CRAFTSMANSHIP OF THE PERIOD. / VISITORS ARE
HEARTILY WELCOMED / TO INSPECT THE BUILDINGS. /
- 2 Wood, paint
- 3 -
- 4 h. 51 x w. 36.5 x d. 3cm
- 5-10 -



- 1 Lath and plaster decorated in oil paint with the heavens, stars, sun, moon, angels and wind blowing from the four corners. Moulded plaster cornice. Some water damage near east edge about 50 x 40cm.
Central chamfered timber ceiling beam running east to west with faded abstract painted decoration. Crack in centre repaired with two steel straps and supported by 15 x 10cm vertical timber post with 21 x 15 timber plinth set into floor.
- 2 Plaster, wood, paint
- 3 17th c (ref a)
- 4 483 x 466 cm
- 5-9 -
- 10 a) The Taunton Town Charity; Historical notes 2005 by Cyril E Bond



510

The condition of items in this Section appears to be satisfactory unless otherwise stated.

**600 REGISTERS AND RECORDS deposited at SOMERSET HERITAGE CENTRE,
Brunel Way, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6SF
The papers that relate to the Almshouses as a whole are listed.**

DD\X\TCL	Grays Almshouses Records 1727-1963
DD\X\TCL/1	An Help for the more easy and clear understanding of the Holy Scriptures. 1727
DD\X\TCL/2	Declarations by inmates of Grays Almshouses to observe the rules. 1886-1945
DD\X\TCL/3	Declarations by inmates of Grays Almshouses to observe the rules. 1951-1963
DD\X\TCL/4	Notice of ? arrangement of Gray's Almshouses (v.faint) No date.
DD\TAC/1	Trust Deeds
DD\TAC/1/1	The Names of the Feoffees of this [Gray's] Almshouse. 1687-1839
DD\TAC/1/2	List of trustees for Gray's Almshouses. 1867
DD\TAC/1/3	List of deeds showing the appointment of Trustees to the Gray's Almshouse Charity. c. 1880s-1919
DD\TAC/1/4	Declaration of Trust for the formation of The Mary Pettit Davies Fund for Distressed Ladies, Taunton. 16 May 1944
DD\TAC/2	Minutes
DD\TAC/2/1	Gray's Almshouses
DD\TAC/2/1/1	Minutes of the Trustees of Gray's Almshouses. 1815-1850
DD\TAC/2/1/2	Gray's Almshouses minute book. 1935-1966
DD\TAC/3	Financial Papers
DD\TAC/3/1/3	Gray's Almshouse account and minute book 1851-1933. Contains details on rents, insurance, repairs creating drains and sewerage and rates, 1851-1933. Also contains accounts for the Kinglakes Charity. From revers of volume lists of Almshouses, date of admittance, age and date of death, with names of trustees, 1851-1941: minutes of meetings with the trustees, containing details of tenancy applications, tenants disagreements, repairs, accounts and appointment of trustees, 1851-1934 (1 volume).
DD\TAC/3/1/4	Account book for the trustees of Robert Gray's charity, Taunton. 1853-1883. Contains statement and balance sheet of the income and expenditure of the Trustees of Gray's Almshouses, 1853-1860 (1 volume).
DD\TAC/3/3	Insurance
DD\TAC/3/3/1	Insurance Policies for Gray's Almshouses and adjoining property 1863- 1916. Includes a policy for the Aircraft Insurance Government Scheme (1 file).
DD\TAC/3/4	Bank Pass Books
DD\TAC/3/4/1	Bank books for Gray's Almshouses 1859-1913

DD\TAC/3/4/2	Gray's Almshouse deposit book 1862-1869 (1 volume).
DD\TAC/3/4/4	Gray's Almshouse bank book 1922 (1 volume)
DD\TAC/3/4/5	Gray's Almshouse bank book 1926-1939 (1 volume)
DD\TAC/3/5	Other financial papers
DD\TAC/3/5/1	Gray's Almshouse bills and vouchers 1735-1739. Includes bills for solicitors work by Francis Hamond and Emanuel Maynard and word done. (1 file).
DD\TAC/4	Correspondence
DD\TAC/4/3	Correspondence with the Trustees of Gray's Almshouses 1920-1927. Includes correspondence concerning the receipt for subscriptions and grants, the grant of Taunton Flower Show tickets to the tenants of the almshouse and repairs to Almshouses. (1 file).
DD\TAC/6	Records for the administration of property
DD\TAC/6/1	Surveys and particulars of land
DD\TAC/6/1/2	A particular of the houses, lands and trust money belonging to Gray's Almshouse, September 1792. (1 document).
DD\TAC/6/1/2	A particular of the houses, lands and monies belonging to Gray's Almshouse, September 1840. (1 document).
DD\TAC/6/2	Rentals
DD\TAC/6/2/4	Gray's Almshouses rent accounts 1866. Lists the names of tenants and rent paid. (4 documents).
DD\TAC/6/4	Other property records
DD\TAC/6/4/1	Owners statement from September 1872 by the bod of Proprietors or Trustees of Gray's Almshouses, Taunton, they are eligible to vote according to the provisions of the Public Health Act. (1 document).
DD\TAC/7	Records relating to the administration of pensioners
DD\TAC/7/1	Copy birth and baptism certificates [for Almshouse inmates or pensioners] 1848-1900. (1 file).
DD\TAC/7/2	Gray's Almshouse agreement ledger 1854-1894. Contains the Rules and Regulations for tenants, with the signatures of tenants agreeing to abide by them, 1884-1885. Also occasionally includes details of the death of a tenant.
DD\TAC/7/4	Gray's Almshouses register of applications 1907-1961. Lists names of applicants, address occupation, age, remarks, number of votes and those elected to the Almshouse. Also includes Gray's Almshouse General Regulations and elections of reader and matron. (1 volume). Closed until 01/01/2020.
DD\TAC/7/5	Gray's Almshouse agreements 1917. Copies of the Rules and Regulations for tenants with the signatures of tenants agreeing to abide by them. (1 file).
DD\TAC/9	Reports
DD\TAC/9/2	Extract from the Further Report of the Commissioners for Inquiry concerning Charities, concerning the religious provision and administration of Gray's Almshouse 21 January 1821. (1 document).

DD\TAC/11	Rules and schemes of charity
DD\TAC/11/2	Draft Charity Commissioners scheme for Robert Gray's Almshouse 1870. Also includes covering letter.
DD\TAC/11/3	Schemes of charity 1872-1981. Contains schemes for Gray's Almshouses 2 October 1981.
DD\TAC/11/4	Schemes in charity for Gray's Almshouses 1881-1918. Various dates (1 file).

DD\TAC/14 Miscellaneous

DD\TAC/14/2	19 Dec 1911 - Receipt from Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the deposit of a bible owned by Gray's Almshouse. [See DD\SAS/C1193/21 for bible] (1 document). This is the Bible listed below and recorded under 604.
DD\SAS/C1193/21	Authorised Version, 1634. For description see 604 below [Formerly belonging to Gray's Almshouses].

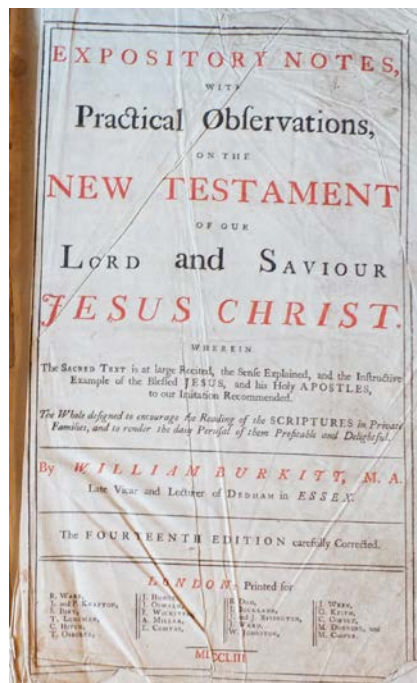
601	REGISTERS in church keeping	None
602	FACULTIES & ARCHDEACONS' CERTIFICATES in church keeping	None
603	TERRIERS & INVENTORIES, DOCUMENTS etc	None

604 BIBLES AND PRAYER BOOKS DATED BEFORE 1851

604-1	HOLY BIBLE Ph	Oak Coffe
1	<p>Full bound New Testament in brown calf with roughly cut turn-ins. 8 bands on plain spine. The back and front boards are plain: all edges are worn.</p> <p>TITLE PAGE: / EXPOSITORY NOTES, / WITH / Practical Observations, / ON OUR / LORD and SAVIOUR / JESUS CHRIST. / WHEREIN / The Sacred Text is at large Recited, the sense Explained, and the Instructive / Example of the Blessed JESUS, and his Holy APOSTLES, / to our Imitation Recommended./ The Whole designed to encourage the Reading of the SCRIPTURES in Private / Families, and to render the daily Perusal of them Profitable and Delightful. / By WILLIAM BURKITT, M. A. / Late Vicar and Lecturer of Dedham in ESSEX. / The FOURTEENTH EDITION carefully Corrected. / LONDON: Printed for / R. Ware, J. and P. Knapton, S. Birt, T. Longman, C. Hitch, T. Osborne, J. Hodge, J. Oswald, E. Wickster, A. Millar, E. Comyns, B. Don, J. Buckland, J. and J. Rivington, J. Ward, W. Johnston, J. Wren, G. Keith, C. Corbet, M. Downing, and M. Cooper. / MLCCLIII /</p> <p>Detached from binding in poor condition. Printed in a variety of sizes and styles of caps and l/c. Red and black.</p> <p>The title page is followed by three pages of dedications to: The Rt Hon & Rt Rev, Father in God, Henry Lord Bishop of London. The Rt Hon Charles Lord Fitzwalter. Family Governours (sic).</p>	
2	Leather, board and paper.	
3	1753	
4	h. 37 x w. 26 x d. 7 cm	
5-10	-	



604-1a



604-1b

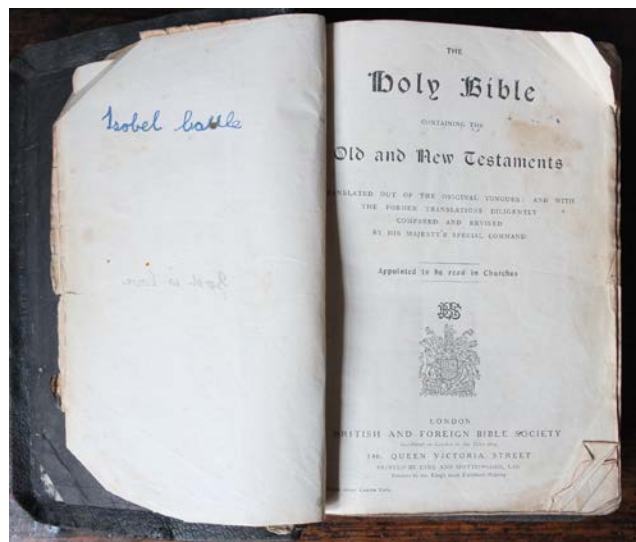
604-2 **HOLY BIBLE Ph**

Oak Coffe

- 1 Holy Bible full bound in Black leather, titled Holy bible in u/c and l/c gilded. Plain spine and seven bands with text "HOLY BIBLE" in gilded u/c between bands 2 & 3.. Contains Old and New Testaments. Poor state of repair.
TITLE PAGE: / THE / Holy Bible / CONTAINING THE / Old and New Testaments / TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES: AND WITH / THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY / COMPARED AND REVISED / BY HIS MAJESTY'S SPECIAL COMMAND / Appointed to be read in Churches / BFBS / LONDON / BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY / Instituted in London in the Year 1804 / 146, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET / PRINTED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, LTD. / Printers to the King's most Excellent Majesty /
- 2 Leather and paper
- 3 Undated
- 4 h. 17 x w. 13 x d. 3cm
- 5 —
- 6 Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd
- 7 Inscribed / GOD HIS LOVE / JAMES JONES 40 GREENWAY AVENUE/ ROWBARTON, TAUNTON/ NOV. 2nd 1925 /
- 8-10 -



604-2a



604-2b

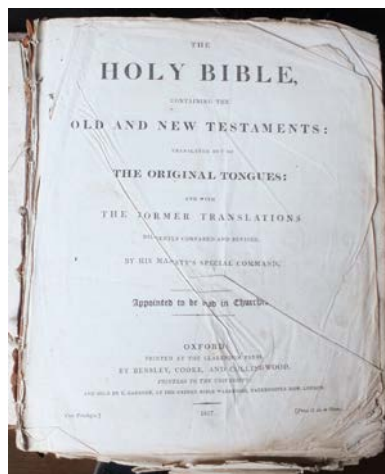
604-3 HOLY BIBLE Ph

Oak Coffered

- 1 Full bound Old and New Testament in brown calf with seven gilt bands on spine. Back and front boards with embossed palmettes in rectangle. Spine label sitting in second field "HOLY BIBLE" in gold on red. Poor state of repair.
Title page: / THE / HOLY BIBLE, / CONTAINING THE / OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS: / TRANSLATED OUT OF / THE ORIGINAL TONGUES: / AND WITH / THE FORMER TRANSLATIONS / DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED, / BY HIS MAJESTY'S SPECIAL COMMAND. / Appointed to be read in Churches. / OXFORD: / PRINTED AT THE CLARENDON PRESS, / BY BENSLEY, COOKE AND COLLINGSWOOD. / PRINTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY; / AND SOLD BY E. GARDNER, AT THE OXFORD BIBLE WAREHOUSE, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON. /
Front end paper carries printed label: *J. Bird, Binder, No. 52, / Hatton Garden.*
- 2 Leather, board and paper
- 3 1817
- 4 h. 30 x w. 24 x d. 8cm
- 5 -
- 6 Bensley, Cooke and Collingswood; Printers to The University
- 7-8 -
- 9 Front end paper inscribed: This Bible belongs / to / Gray's Almshouse / 1820.
- 10 -



604-3a



604-3b



604-3c

- 1 Authorised Version of the Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testament and Apocrypha lodged at Somerset Heritage Centre in 1911 by trustees of Gray's chapel in 1911. Major disrepair with front and backboards detached and no spine although evidence of rivets once holding spine in place. Oak front and backboards covered in leather with remnants of geometric pattern. Four brass corners held with small rivets and rosette patterns. Central brass lozenge secured with rivets and worn rosette pattern. Two brass clasps. Pages missing at front and back of book leaving a morning and evening service schedule for May as the current front page. No remaining information on publisher. Book is stored in atmospheric protection with evidence of previous infestation.
- 2 Leather, oak and paper.
- 3 1634 (ref a)
- 4 h. 46 x w. 26 x d. 15cm
- 5-9 -
- 10 a) Somerset Heritage Centre DD\SAS/C1193/21



604-4a



604-4b



604-4c



604-4d

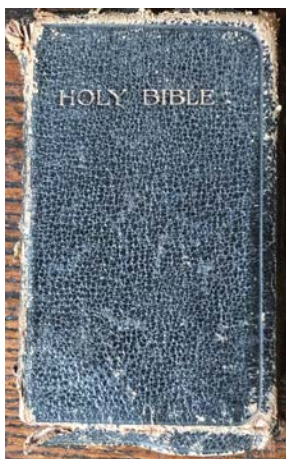


604-4e

605 BIBLES Ph**Oak Coffe**

- A Authorised versions
 - i. 1 Copy of the King James version in black leather binding. Published by Oxford University Press
h. 12 x w. 7 x d. 2 cm

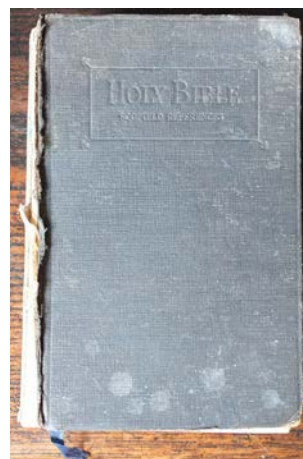
- ii. 1 Copy of the King James version in board binding dated 1853. Published by SPCK. Inscribed Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge 1698.
h. 21 x w. 14 x d. 4 cm
- iii. 1 copy of the Scofield Reference Holy Bible in black publishers cloth binding. Published by Oxford University Press.
h. 21 x w. 14 x d. 4 cm
- iv. 1 copy of The National Family Bible fully bound brown leather. Embossed with fillet frame and concave sided hexagon framing HOLY BIBLE in gilded u/c. Spine has 8 bands with the text THE NATIONAL FAMILY BIBLE in gilded u/c between bands 2 & 3. Raised brass lobed bosses at top and bottom R corners. 2 brass clasps. Published by Grant Bros. h. 34 x w. 28 x d. 2cm
- v. 1 worn copy of a King James version dated 1865 in black leather binding inscribed: / *To Isabella Pride / with a friends best wishes / February 1867 /* And beneath another inscription: / *Given to Louisa J Scott / October 1886 /* Published by Oxford University Press. h. 13 x w. 9 x d. 4
- vi. 1 worn copy of the King James version fully bound in brown leather, front embossed with small circular embellishment: / British and Foreign Bible Society /. Spine embossed with gilt lozenges. Inscribed: / Presented by Miss Bolt / to Gray's Almshouses, / East Street, Taunton. / 1839. Published by Eyre & Spottiswoode.
h. 26 x w. 17 x d. 9cm.
- vii. 1 worn copy of the King James version fully bound in brown leather. Spine embossed with gilt lozenges Inscribed: Given By / J Boyce / To Gray's Alms Houses /. 1835. Printed by Samuel Collingwood and Co. h. 31 x w. 25. x d. 8cm.
- viii. 1 heavily worn fully bound brown leather. Several inscriptions relating to births of the Quick family in first half of 19th century majority illegible. Printed by George Eyre and Andrew Strahan. h. 18 x w. 15 x d. 4 cm



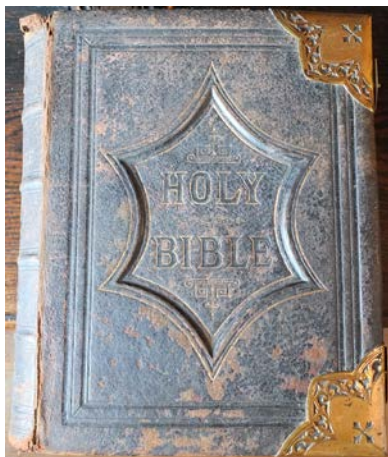
605-i



605-ii



605-iii



605-iv



605-v



605-vi



605-vii



605-viii

606 **BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER Ph**

Oak Coffey

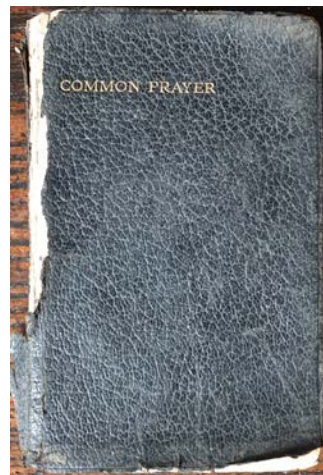
- i. 1 copy of full bound brown calf without grain. The front cover bears an adhered leather label inscribed 'LONG SUTTON VICARAGE'. Dated 1843. Published by Oxford University Press. h. 29 x w. 23 x d. 5cm.
- ii. 1 copy full bound in grey textile. Front cover with letters "IHS" gilt embossed in elaborate rectangular decoration. Six bands on spine with COMMON PRAYER in gold on label on second field. Inside front board sheet of notepaper addressed "STONELEIGH, / SOUTH ROAD, / TAUNTON" and inscribed *Illustrated Prayer Book / for / Gray's Almshouses. / Presented by Mrs C. Tike.* Cloth, board and paper. Printed by WILLIAM CLOWES and SONS, Stamford St. LONDON. h. 28 x w. 19 x d. 6cm.
- iii. 1 worn copy, black leather binding. Published by Oxford University Press. h. 14 x w. 7 x d. 2cm



606-i



606-ii



606-iii

607 **COLLECTION OF HYMNS Ph**

Oak Coffe

Full bound. Brown leather board and paper. Spine with 7 bands embossed WESLEY'S HYMNS in gold between second and third bands. One central brass clasp foliate. Title page: *COLLECTION OF HYMNS / FOR THE / USE OF THE PEOPLE / CALLED / METHODISTS / BY THE REV. JOHN WESLEY, A.M. / SOMETIME FELLOW OF LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD / WITH A SUPPLEMENT / LONDON / PUBLISHED / BY JOHN MASON / 2 CASTLE STREET, FINSBURY / SOLD AT 66 PATERNOSTER ROW /*.

Inscribed: To Dear Aunt / With best love from / her affectionate Niece / M Scute / March 1865 /. Publisher John Mason/ John Roche, Printer, 25 Hoxton Square, London. h. 19 x w. 12 x d. 4 cm.



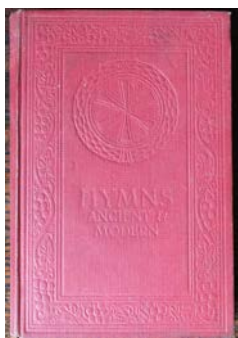
607

608 **HYMNS ANCIENT AND MODERN Ph**

Oak Coffe

7 Copies, red textile binding dated 1904.

Printed by William Clowes and Sons Ltd, 23 Cockspur Street. h. 18 x w. 12 x d. 3cm

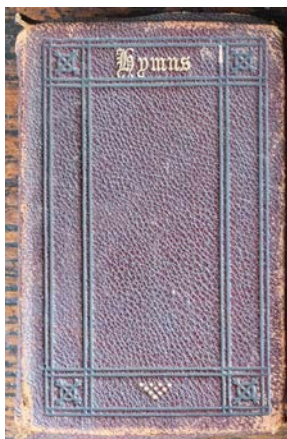


608

609 **HYMNS Ph**

Oak Coffer

- 1 1 copy full bound yapp brown binding with 6 bands on decorative spine. Good condition with a little wear on spine end.
- 2 Leather and paper
- 3 1856 revised 1881.
- 4 h. 18 x w. 7 x d. 2cm
- 5 -
- 6 Printed by G Morrish, 20 Paternoster Square, London.
- 7-8 -
- 9 Inscribed in hand on front inside board: / *Davis / East Reach* /.
- 10 -



609

610 **FLEETWOODS LIFE OF CHRIST Ph**

Oak Coffer

- 1 1 copy full bound, leather on board with front board detached. Worn edges on back and front boards. Boards are covered with panel stamped leather and gold fleuron in each corner set in two parallel gold lines. There is a small diamond pattern left blind with a shell and Anthemion border.
- 2 Fabric, paper
- 3 -
- 4 h. 28 x w. 22 x d. 7cm.
- 5-6 -
- 7 Published by James S. Virtue of London.
- 8 -
- 9 Inscribed: / Gray's Almshouses, The Life of Christ / For use of inmates / July 1914
- 10 -



610a



610b

The condition of items in this Section appears to be satisfactory unless otherwise stated.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 700 | EAST WINDOW | None |
| 701 | WINDOW Ph | N wall |
| 1 | Stonework: Triple window of 17th c with chamfered arched heads and two chamfered mullions.
Main lights: Leaded lights with horizontal metal reinforcing bars. Two lower outer leaded lights set in metal side hung casements with round turnbuckle catches and plain stays with hooks and rings below catches.
Deep plastered angled reveals and soffit with black painted timber sill. | |
| 2 | Glass, lead, iron. | |
| 3 | 17th c 1989 (ref a) | |
| 4 | H 133 x w 181. Each light (glazing) h 111 x w 45 cm. | |
| 5-9 | - | |
| 10 | a) Stansell's (Building) Ltd; Town's Most Famous Landmark Restored 1989 | |



701

800 **FLOOR Ph**

- 1 The chapel floor is in air dried English oak and was completely replaced in 1988 (ref a.) with air-dried oak. The dimensions of the room are 483 cm x 466 cm at the widest point being an irregular square.
- 2 Oak
- 3 20th c
- 4 483 x 466 cm
- 5-9 -
- 10 a) A valuation of specific items for the purposes of insurance 1989



800