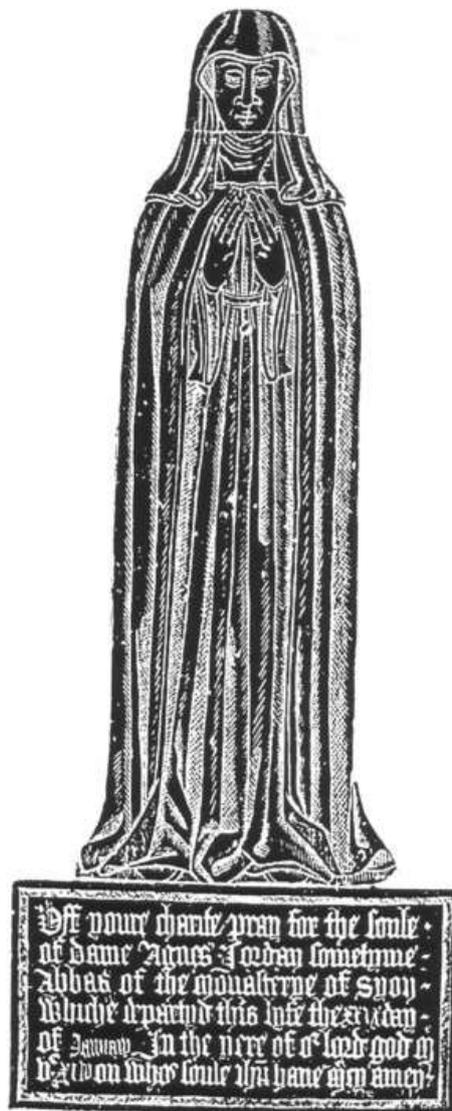


**A SHORT ILLUSTRATED GUIDE  
TO THE STAY  
OF DAME AGNES JORDAN,  
AND THE BRIDGITTINE NUNS  
OF SYON ABBEY, MIDDLESEX,  
AT SOUTHLANDS IN DENHAM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,  
IN THE POST DISSOLUTION PERIOD  
1539 TO 1546**

- 1 Memorial Brass of Dame Agnes Jordan, as reproduced by Aungier.**
- 2 A Short Biography of Dame Agnes Jordan (from Tudor Women Website).**
- 3 Note on the date inscribed on the brass inscription, by Stuart Forbes, SARA.**
- 4 Notes on the Lost Tombstone of Agnes Jordan- Lathbury.**
- 5 Record of a Visit to Southlands, by SARA Members, 13 June 2012.**
- 6 The Will Agnes Jordan, Feb 9 1546.**
- 7 Notes to the Will and Pensions by Sara.**
- 8 Photos of Southlands in 1900 and 2012.**
- 9 Photos of St Mary's Church, Denham in 2012.**

**Agnes Jordan, Last Abbess of Syon Abbey, Isleworth Dissolved 1539.  
Lived at Southlands, Denham – c. November 1539 to 29 January 1546**



Off youre charity pray for the soule/  
of dame Agnes Jordan sometyne/  
Abbas of the monasterye of Syon/  
Whiche departyd this lyfe the xxix day/  
of January In the yere of or Lord god m  
v<sup>c</sup> xliv on whos soule ihū have mcy Amen

**Brass as reproduced by Aungier**

## AGNES JORDAN (d. January 29, 1546).

1 From Tudor Women website:

Agnes Jordan was abbess of Syon in Isleworth, near Sheen, from 1521-1539. She was the sister of Isabel Jordan or Jordayn, prioress and later abbess of Wilton, who was described, in 1528, as "ancient, wise, and discreet." Isabel had died by March 1533.

In 1530, Agnes commissioned (with John Fewterer, the confessor-general) a printing of the *Mirror of Our Lady*, a commentary on the sisters' office. Syon was a Bridgettine Abbey. The Order of the Most Holy Saviour had been founded by St. Bridget of Sweden (1304-1373). As abbess, Agnes ruled over both men and women and provided lodging for well-to-do ladies who wished to retire from the world.

She was both host and jailer to Lady Margaret Douglas from November 1536 until October or November 1537. Margaret was confined because of her unauthorized marriage to Lord Thomas Howard, one of the duke of Norfolk's younger sons. In a letter written to Thomas Cromwell, Agnes complained about the number of manservants Margaret had with her and the possibility that she might use them to send messages to Lord Thomas in the Tower of London. Margaret apparently had both her own servants and Howard's with her until Cromwell intervened.

By the time Lady Margaret was confined at Syon a second time in 1540, the nunnery had been dissolved. It was suppressed on November 25, 1539 and the fifty-two choir nuns, four lay sisters, twelve brothers, and five lay brothers dispersed. Agnes received an annuity of £200. She rented a farm house, Southlands, near Denham, Buckinghamshire, and lived there with nine other sisters from Syon. Portrait: a brass plate in Denham Church.

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenI-J.htm>



Memorial brass to Dame Agnes Jordan 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 (Palm Sunday) in St Mary's Church, Denham, Buckinghamshire. Approximately 27 inches (65cm) high x 12 inches (29 cm) wide



Inscription at base of memorial brass to Dame Agnes Jordan on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 (Palm Sunday) in St Mary's Church, Denham, Buckinghamshire, approximately 6 inches (14.5 cm) high x 12 inches (29 cm) wide

**Note on the date inscribed on the brass inscription by Stuart Forbes:**

- 1 Off youre charite pray for the soule/
- 2 of dame Agnes Jordan sometye/
- 3 Abbas of the monasterye of Syon/
- 4 Whiche departyd this lyfe the *xxix* day/
- 5 of *January* In the yere of or Lord god *m/*
- 6 *v<sup>c</sup> xliv* on whos soule ihū have mcy amen

'or' in line 5 ('or Lord') may be the old English 'thorn' (i.e. 'th') with a superscript 'e', often rendered 'y<sup>e</sup>'.

Lines 5-6: The date is difficult. First, the brass was obviously pre-prepared and the day, month and year of death were added later. Secondly, the year reads 1545. It would normally be written 'mdxlv'. The writer seems to be saying that of thousands there is one, of hundreds five, of tens 'one ten less than 50', and a 5. It is not unreasonable to assume the metal worker who added the figures was not very numerate.

This then makes the relevant dates:

- Date will made 28 October 1545
- Date of death 29 January 1545/46, old style – 1546 new style.
- Date of probate 9 Feb 1545/46, old style – 1546 new style.

These are then entirely consistent.

**LATHBURY Page 342:** 'The effigy of Agnes Jordan as seen in the brass in Denham Church does not show this corona. After her dismissal from Syon she doubtless ceased to wear the characteristic Bridgettine dress of her order. The dress as worn by Agnes Jordan on the brass, is apparently that of a 'professed widow.'

## LATHBURY – NOTES ON THE LOST TOMBSTONE OF AGNES JORDAN

**Page 335:** ‘Some interesting accounts of the monuments and brasses existing at that time are also given, e.g.:

“In the chancel near the north wall, upon brass plates, fixed upon brass stones: on one is the portraiture of a woman in the habit of an Abbess (Note – see below) and under her this inscription:-

*Of your charitie pray for the soul of Dame Agnes Jordan, sometime Abbess of the monastery of Sion, which departed this life the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord God 1545. On whose soule Jesu have mercy. Amen !*

Round the verges:

*Domine secundum actum meum noli me iudicare, nihil dignum in conspectus tuo, ego ideo deprecor majestatem tuam ut tu, dues, deleas iniquitatem meam, ne recorderis peccata mea, Domine. Dum ve...[neris iudicare].. saecula per ignem. Liber me domine de mortua perpetua, de morte aeterna in....coeli movendi...[sunt] et terra. dum veneris iudicare saeculum per ignem , unice Christe, te petimus misere, quaesumus, qui venisti redimere perditos, noli damnare redemptos.*

On the stone have been four escutcheons, the dexter one of the head is torn out, on the other is a cross between ye hands and feet of our saviour pierced, his breast over INRI, and under the chalice a heart, at ye feet these arms”

This brass is now, 1902, on the north side of the entrance to the chancel. I have been told, but with what truth I cannot say, that the original stone belonging to the brass is underneath the tiles in the centre of the chancel, immediately under the chandelier.

(NOTE BY JS Adams): The inscription round the verges, now apparently lost, seems, in its list and the repetition The inscription or beautiful prayer round the verges as recorded in the Lansdowne MSS is now lost.

of dum veneris to follow Briggittine liturgy for *All Souls day*<sup>1</sup>:

*After the ix<sup>te</sup> response Libera me [Domine, de morte perpetua] the verses shall be Dies illa [Dies irae, dies illa]. Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra. Ardentes animae. Dum veneris iudicare saeculum per ignem. Creator omnium, Dum veneris.*

The latin text on the (lost) verges appears to have some variations from the more correct Additions to the Rule – *Liber* for *Libera*, *saecula* for *saeculum*.

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<sup>1</sup> All Souls Day – see Aungier, George James, *The History and Antiquities of Syon Monastery*, printed by and for J. B. Nichols and Son, London 1840, pp356 and 357 (Additions to the Rules, Chapters XLII to XLIV)

## RECORD OF VISIT TO SOUTHLANDS, BUCKS, BY SARA MEMBERS 13 JUNE 2012

Sigrid Padel, Stuart Forbes and John Adams of Syon Abbey Research Associates visited Southlands on 13 June 2012. The house, now much altered, was the home of the last pre-reformation abbess of Syon Abbey, Agnes Jordan, from 1539 to her death in 1545. The Chronicle of Wriothesley relates: "The 25 daie of November the house of Syon was suppressed into the King's hands, and the ladies and brethren putt out, which was the vertues (virtousest) house of religion that was in England, the landes and goodes to the King's use."

The Jordans seem to have owned property in Denham, and this may have been the reason that Dame Agnes chose this location: Lathbury mentions on page 335 '*In Goodlake charter No 43, John Jordan gives an acknowledgement that he holds a mease (manor) and twenty acres of the executors of King Henry VII as of their manor of Denham Durdent. Also, on the same date, John Jordan acknowledges receipt of £3. 6s 8d. for two acres of meadow in Southmede (possibly later Southlands), sold to Sir William Holgill (Goodlake Charter No 44.)*'

Elsewhere in Lathbury it is affirmed that Southland farm was part of the Durdent family manor (later changed perhaps to Durrant) from at least prior to 1367. Thomas Legg is represented as the farmer of Southland in his will dated AD 1542. He probably farmed the land, while Agnes Jordan occupied the house. The will of Agnes Jordan, made at Southlands (attached below) has been transcribed from *The History of Denham*<sup>2</sup> by SARA. She is buried, with a commemorative brass (one of only two representations of Abbesses in England) in St Mary's Church, Denham.

J. R. Fletcher in "The Story of the English Bridgettines" (Fletcher, 1923, p.37) stated that "Agnes Jordan rented of Sir Edmund Peckham a farmhouse, "Southlands "near Denham There is also coverage of the Syon sojourn in an article by Peter Cunich of Hong Kong University<sup>3</sup> - as yet unseen by SARA. Peter Cunich has also visited Southlands.

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<sup>1</sup> *The History of Denham Bucks* by LATHBURY, Rev.R.H. (In Diocese of Oxford Since A.D. 1845, (Prior to that in Diocese of Lincoln) Containing an Account of Manor, Church, Parish etc. Compiled from Original Documents, MSS., Charters, Rolls, Etc.) 1904. Privately printed for the Rev. R.H. Lathbury, M.A. by Lucy & Birch. Uxbridge. Limited Edition

<sup>3</sup> CUNICH, PETER (2011) (University of Hong Kong) 'Surviving the Dissolution: The Syon Community at Denham, 1539-50,' *The Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Eighth International Congress, ANZAMEMS 2–5 February 2011 University of Otago in New Zealand.*

After Dame Jordan's death, Sister Katherine Palmer, (who had led a separate group of Syon nuns to join the Falcon Sisters in Antwerp), went to Denham and brought back the remaining sisters with her to Flanders. There were now too many for the Falcon Sisters Convent. Therefore they had to move to the Bridgettine Abbey of Maria Troon in Termonde where they remained until their return to Syon in 1557 under Mary Tudor.

The house deeds for Southlands were destroyed in WWII. There are however several boxes of notes on Denham at the Bodleian Library made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the then rector – the Lansdowne Papers, as yet unseen by SARA, but noted by Lathbury in his History of Denham. Denham Manor in the nearby village was in the 1580s the scene of catholic exorcisms, recorded in some detail at the time<sup>4</sup>. The estate is on a level and low-lying site, with the water table only a few feet below the surface. There is a small stream at what is now the rear of the house – this may once have fed the moat mentioned in the will of Agnes Jordan. The stream is sluggish, and is an arm of the Alderbourne River which supplied power via a head of water stored in a pond, to a mill behind the farm.

At the current main entrance a line of yew bushes leads off in a diagonal from the Archway. This is because the previous direct exit across fields to Uxbridge is now blocked by a gravel extraction works. Southlands is a Grade 2 listed building. It is timber-framed with brick nogging, has an old tile roof and four early 17<sup>th</sup> century chimney. One enters through a carriage way oversailed by a gabled first floor on exposed timber corbels. Both inside and on the outside a surprising number of original oak beams are visible.

The house was owned in the 1930-40s by a lawyer, who defrauded his clients and was sent to jail on the day WWII broke out. He had spent a lot of money rebuilding the house (in the 'Tudor' style). The current rear block is relatively new, but since it forms the square, with the entrance Gateway, it may have replaced a previous similar and older building. The house timbers have recently (2012) been dated to 1473. The timbers of the adjoining vast and impressive barn have been dated to 1472. These timbers were green oak, which was more workable than seasoned wood. There were apparently three such barns in the past, which suggests that Southlands was of some wealth, perhaps even an ecclesiastical centre – nearby Denham Manor belonged to the Abbey of Westminster before the Dissolution.

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<sup>4</sup>See: BROWNLOW, F.W. (1993), Shakespeare, Harsnett, and the Devils of Denham. Associated University Presses. Cranbury, NJ, USA and London.

On the inside of the Gateway and some 4 meters up, is a bell with a circular pull ringing mechanism. The bell does not look old, but it is intriguing to note that there was a bell at the entry to the chapel, mentioned in the will. In its current position the bell is on the *inside* of the courtyard, and not visible from the outside, which seems odd.

Inside the house, there are numerous exposed oak timbers, clearly of great age. It was not possible on a short visit, and allowing for the many changes to the house, to deduce any relationship to the will and the 20 or so rooms it itemises – though one modern bedroom was previously divided into four small bedrooms - the will records several sisters' rooms, which may have been of similar dimensions. A passage outside the bedrooms suggested how this might have looked at the time. There was also no room readily identifiable as the chapel. The layout of the house is confusing, so that a division of the rooms between sisters and brothers (as say at Syon Abbey), or the retention of any upper area for the sisters in the chapel, can no longer be easily verified. There is no record of the 'clock chamber' mentioned in the will.

## THE WILL OF AGNES JORDAN; P.P.C. ALLEN, 4:

LATHBURY: Page 336: From the prerogative Court at Canterbury, and preserved at Somerset House.

“In the name of God, Amen. The eighth and twentieth day of October anno domini millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo quinto<sup>5</sup>, I, Agnes Jordan, being sicke in body but hole in memory make my laste wyll and testament in forme and manner as hereafter folwyth.

Ffyrst, I commende my soule unto Almightye God, our blessed Lady, Saint Mary, and to all the hollye company of heven<sup>6</sup>, and my body to be buried within the parrishe church of Denham.

Item, I give and bequeathe to the chappell of St John Baptiste in the same church of Denham a vestment of black velvet crossed with cloth of bawdkyn<sup>7</sup>, and a hangynge of the same suytte to the aulter of the same chappell.

Item, I give and bequeathe to the prest for to singe for my soule the space of thre yeeres in the same church twentie pounds, that is to have every yere six pounds thirteene shillings four pence sterlinge for his wage, willing that the same priest shalbe one of my own chaplyns if anny of them will be content to take it upon him or els I wyll that the same preste shalbe at the appointment of the executors of this my laste will.

Item, at my burial moneth mynde and yeres day I will that my executours shal bestoe for the welth of my soul the some of twenty pounds sterling.

Item, I give and bequeath my beste vestment with my best hangynge to the high aulter of the said Church of Denham, and yf the said hanging be too short I will that they shalbe augmented and made p'fite (*perfect*) with such stuffe as by me is lefte of the same suyte.

Item, to Sir Thomas, late parishe preste of the saide church I bequethe twenty shillings sterling.

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<sup>5</sup> This seems to conflict and postdate the Probate of the will on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1545. This is probably the old system of calculating the year to run to March 25<sup>th</sup>, not to December 31st

Henry VII will not die until January 1547, so most of the catholic religious practices were presumably still permitted and in place.

<sup>6</sup> Perhaps the conventions of will-making prevented her from mentioning St Bridget.

<sup>7</sup> ‘Baudkyn was a rich and precious species of stuff introduced into England in the 13 century. It is said to have been composed of silk interwoven with threads of gold in the most sumptuous manner. (See Halliwell vol I, p151).’

Item, to Sir John Mathewe of the same parishe I bequethe twentie shillings sterling. Item to my chaplynne Sir Leonard beinge with me at the departyng of this lyffe, I bequethe fortie shillings sterling and a fetherbedd which is in the clock chamber with a bolster, twoo pillows with two pillow beres, a paire of blankettys, a pare of sheets with a coverlet.

Item to Iver Church I bequeath a table of our Lord's pyttie with an image of St George on horseback.

Item I give and bequethe unto the high aulter of Wootton Bassett chappell two aulter cloths of diaper.

Item to Sir Edmond Peckham, Knight, coferer of the Kynges most honourable housholde, being one of the executors of this my last will I geve and bequethe five poundes sterling with three yards of crimson velvet and the kanapye that hangeth in my chappell over the Sacrament, with the images that useth daylie to stand upon the aulter in the same chappell with an hanging to be afore the alter payned with blacke velvet and crymsen satin of bridges.<sup>8</sup>

Item To my ghostly father, Anthony Lytil, clerk, I gave and bequethe five pounds sterling, my great crucifix of clothe stained, hanging in my chappell above the aulter, an image of our Ladye of yvery with hur ii crownes with all such things as belongeth to the same ymage, my beste chest a folding table, a paire of blankets beside the bedding in his chamber, and all the hangyngs and other contentes and implements in the same, a couborde standing in the hall, a vestment of sattyn brydges blew, with orffres of bawdkyn with the alb and amys and all that belongeth to the same vestment, and a paire of blacke beads with gaudies of white and a flat coffer.

And whereas Mr William Latymer. Clerke, doth owe unto me one obligacion the sum of eight pounds, I will that the same sum of eight pounds be employed by the same Master Lytil, clerk, to the fynding of two children to schole for to have lernynge to pray for my soule.

Item, I give and bequethe to sister Margaret Covert lxiii s. sterling, an alterclothe and hanging of blew damaske, embrothered with JHUS, the front belonging to the same, a table having the ymage of our Ladye on hit, with her Sonne in her arms, one coffer, a cusshone, two pillows and a pair of blankets, a spruse chest with all the lynnyn stuffe in the same, which I did use to were, a cipers chest with particons (*partitions* ?) in hit, a gowne of browne blewe not lined, a kyrtyll of blacke saye, the coverlet which

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<sup>8</sup> Bruges

doth lye upon the bedd of the said Margery (sic), a joynid cobborde standing in the parlour of waynescott and her books of her service and of prayers.

Item to Sister Mary Watnoo I bequethe xl s. sterling, an alter clothe with a hangynge of red silke punched of damask worke with the front belonging to the same, a cushynne, twoo pillowes, a paire of blankets.

Item, to Sister Birgit Suliarde I bequethe lxiiii s. sterling, and alter clothe with an hanging of whyte and red sarsanet, a front of the same, an image of our Lorde standing, one coffer, one chere, one cusshone, twoo pillows, a paire of blankets , a fourre (*fur* ?) of fox skynnes, a lytil crucifix of tree, and a lytil coffer, a chaire and the alter which doth stande in her chamber.

Item, I geve and bequethe to Sister Dorothy Slyght lxiiii s., ane alter clothe with an hangynge payned of red and blew sattyn of bridges with a fron belonging to the same and a cobborde which standeth in the same Dorotheis chamber, a coffer, a cheare, a cusshynne, ii pillows, with a paire of blankytts.

( Cont: Page 338 )

Item to Sister Mary Nevell I geve and bequethe lxiiii s. sterling an alter clothe, an hanging for an alter, of white sattyn paynid with red sattyn with a pagent of our Lordes passion and resurrection drawn upon it, an ymage of our Laydey of pittey, holding her sonne in her lappe, a table of our Lordes Maundy, with the pagent of his passion upon the same, a coffer, a chaire, a cusshone, ii pillows with ii pillow beres, and a paire of blankets, a crucifix with Mary and John, gilte.

Also, one lytil foldynge table of wainscotte which doth stande in the parlour, a mantle furr of black lambe my best gowne of browne blewe, my kyrtyll of worsted, a blue coverlet of woollen thred, a little flat coffer which is burned behind, a lytle casket, and a cobborde standing in her owne chamber.

Item to Master Thomas Skydmore I bequethe lx s. sterling which three poundes I graunted to bequethe unto him whensoever I shall departe this lyffe as it appereth by a byll which he has in his hands sealed with my own seale dated the monthe of September in the thirtie and two yeare of our soveraigne Lorde kinge Henry the eighth.

Item, to brother John Massey I bequeathe fortie shillings sterlinge.

Item to John Mangreve (*Mawgreve* ? – see below), I bequethe twentie shillings sterling.

Item, to Thomas Neale and his wyffe I bequethe twentie shillings sterling, my beste brasse pott, my greatest brasse panne, a spit, a gridiron, a table clothe, a dripping pan, and twoo pewter potts.

Item to Anthony Wilbore, I bequethe twentie shillings sterlinge,  
Item, to Elizabeth Hollywey twentie shillings with a gold ringe.  
Item to Elizabeth Mawgreve (*Mangreve ?*) in readie money twentie shillings sterling.  
Item I bequethe to hur brother Anthony Lytil a ffetherbed with all that belongith to a bedd, and twentie shillings sterling.

Item, to Johanne Stoke I bequethe fortie shillings sterling, and a gold ringe with two paire of sheetes, a pair of blankets, twoo pillows with two pillow beers, a counterpoint (*counterpane ?*), a coverlet lyeth upon my owne bedd with my grene hangings, which belongith to the same bedd, a chest, a bason with an ewer, and another lesser bason, a standynge candlestyke, a sokkyt for a candle and a cussynne. And yf so fortune that the same Joanne Stoke depart this lyffe before she come of the age of eighteen years or befor that she be married then I will that all her saide bequest be geven and bestowed for my soule and hers whereas shalbe thought most meritorious or needful by the discretion of my executors of thys my last wyll.

Item to owre neighbours Anne Wylde widdowe I bequethe ten shillings sterling.  
Item to mother Saundertoun I bequethe ten shillings sterlinge.  
Item to William Saunderton I bequethe ten shillings sterling.  
Item I bequethe to John Collett tenne shillings sterling.  
Item to Catherine Dodsonne tenne shillings sterling.  
Item to John Bultresolde tenne shillings sterling.  
Item to Richard Lambert tenne shillings sterling.

Item I bequethe unto Master Robarte Peckham to remayne within the chappell one sup altere, hallowed, (*i.e. a consecrated altar, probably with relics as its altarstone*) one altere of wainscot with lock and keye to the same, twoo tylls standing in the south side of the saide chappell, one settle with a a keye and twoo loks with all the benchers and forms contained therein, all the ymages hanging about the chapel, except them that are otherwise geven and bequeathed in my last wyll and testament, twoo cruets, two candlestyks to stand upon the alter, and a lytle mass book with a yellow covering remayninge in the hall, twoo tables with the trestles belongunge to the same, a large cubborde that standeth next the larde house, all the hangings about the hall and the ymages that are over the tables, with all the forms that hath used to stand with the same tables in the hall, my clocke with the bell that belongeth thereunto, the bell hangyng by the chappell dore, with the holly waterstocke (*holy water stoop*), two bedstedes in the clock chamber, and all the shelfes contained in the same, and in the chamber over the colehouse, one bedstedde in master Lytle's chamber, with the bordes that be over his studie, and a bedestede that standeth at the stereddede in Sir Leonard's chamber, one bedstead with all the shelves in the same chamber, in the gestes (guest's) chamber one bedested with a shelf in the same

chamber, in Sir Richard Browne's chamber all the bourdes that lyeth in the fflower (*floor*) thereof, with the broad plank that is therein and one stillatory, a pecke axe, an iron rake with a spade, to be used in the gardyn, all the shelfes and forms that are in the stilling house, and in the kitchen a paire of aundyrons, a long barre of iron, and twoo shorte barres, with in the chimney, , the great paire of cubbordes, a spit, and a dryppinge panne, a mortar with twoo longiste hookes, to hang potts upon, in the bowltinge house one knedinge trough, one bowltinge tub, with all the tubs contained in the same house, and a capon cowpe that standeth in the hen house, in the hay house one horse litter, a coffin that is made of elme bourdes, that remayneth in the loft over the stable, and the coverynge that belongeth to the same, with all the glasse windows and casements of glasse that belongithe to anny part of the house and mansion of Southlaunde or unto anny chamber of the same. In the buttry a water tube, a water pott, the thre treyse (*trays*)?, a lined basket, a binne with locke and key and twelve kynderkins (*casks*). In the larder house a great close heren aumbrey (*perhaps a sealed cabinet in a wall for smoking herrings*), one powdering tube, a saulte tube with all the shelfes in the same house.

In the chamber by the hall one bedstedd, in the maydens chamber over the hall one bedstedd, in the parlor one bedsted, also twoo keyes to the great brond gates, and the wyket, twoo keyes to the postern gate, one locke and keye to palegate towards the orchards, one locke and keye to the garden gate, with a bolte of Yron. Twoo keyes to the hall dorr, a locke and keye to the chamber dore by the postern gate, a locke and keye to the stable dore, a locke and keye to the dore of the loft above, a lock and keye to the heyhouse dore etc. Twoo keyes to the orchard gate in the gardeyne a gate towards the mote side with staple claspe and henge, in the ketchen yarde beside the grete oke by the mote side a doure also the frame in the wasshinge house, the dragge nett, a ladder that hangyth in the courte, and my parte of the long ladder in the possession of Master Wylde his wydowe.

And furthermore all the residue of my goodes movable and immovable, not geven or bequeathed I gevve and bequethe to myne executors of this my laste will, willing that they should bestow the saide goodes after their discrecion for the welth of my soule, my frendes soules and all Christen soules, so that I will that my books, ymages and pictors be distributed amongst my sisters that hath been most commonly about me and hath taken most paines with me in my sickness, since the dissoluinge of the late monestary of Syon, except that I wyll that my good Lady Peckham and my landladye younge Mistress Peckham shall chose and have fyrste to eche of them after their devocion an Ymage or a pictour or twoo of those wich specially by name are not geven or bequeathed.

Moreover I most humbly beseech my most assured frende, the saide Edmund Peckham Knyghte, that for charity he will vouchsafe for to helpe that this my laste wylle may be ffaytfully and truly p'fourmed and fullfyllide.

And I ordeyne and constitute and make the same Sir Edmunde Peckham, knyghte, and my saide goostlye father Anthony Lytll, clerke, my full executours, of this my last will and testament.

In wytnesse wheareof and of all the premises hereunto I have set my seale the day and yere above written, thes being wytness, Robarte Peckham, and Mary Nevill, Thomas Wallassey Clerke, John Massey and Richarde Mathewson.

*Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum nono die mensis Ffebruarii anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo quadregesimo, quinto juramento executorum &c (Feb 9 1545 – i.e. 1545/46).*

#### NOTES TO THE WILL and PENSIONS BY SARA:

Religious mentioned in will:

	£	s	d	£ in 2012
Abess Agnes Jordan	200	0	0	280,000
Father Anthony Lytill	6	13	4	9,000
Sister Mary Watnoo	6	0	0	8,400
Sister Margery Covert	6	0	0	8,400
Sister Byrgit Suliarde / Solyarde	6	13	4	9,000
Sister Dorotie Slyght / Sleight	6	13	4	9,000
Sister Mary Nevell / Nevill	6	0	0	8,400
Brother John Massey	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3,700</u>
	<u>£240</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>say £337,000</u>

1 The pensions reflect calculations in *marks* which were 6s–8d or 80d. Two marks was 13s-4d or 160d, 3 marks was £1 or 240d.

2 A parson in Tudor England would earn about £20 a year. A Vicar in 2012 could earn £28,000 – the factor is therefore about 1400 times the Tudor pension.



SOUTHLANDS HOUSE (Back View)

127, New York 1901

Taken from LATHBURY. The Gatehouse is still standing - see next photo



View in June 2012 from inside courtyard, showing bell at top right.



Interior of St Mary's Church, Denham Bucks, on Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, looking East. The memorial brass to Dame Agnes Jordan is before the high altar on the left, i.e., east side.

The chapel of St John the Baptist, mentioned in her will, appears to be that on the right hand side of the picture, now vacant.

*'Item, I give and bequeathe to the chappell of St John Baptiste in the same church of Denham a vestment of black velvet crossed with cloth of bawdkyn, and a hangynge of the same suytte to the aulter of the same chappell.'*



Piscina in the south wall, next to the former altar to St John Baptist.