“To the honour and worship of Almighty God and his saints:” Lay Patronage at All Saints’ Parish Church, Bristol

Natalie Gearin

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Abstract

Countless objects across England were destroyed, leaving comparably few traces of late medieval art, architecture, and religious practice for examination today. Written documents, however, were not an active target of the Reformation. In some cases they are the best resource available for understanding and imagining the appearance, importance, and role of parish churches in the late medieval era. They provide glimpses of very personal relationships between the laity and the churches they used, and help to discern some of the ways in which benefactors could actively shape the interiors of these buildings to assert their authority within the community, and obtain prayers for salvation after death. Additionally, the laity helped form the congregation’s sensory perception of the Mass through donations of objects that engaged sight, touch, and sound. This will be demonstrated through the use of primary source texts written in fifteenth century English and accompanying modern translations of those texts, surviving artistic and architectural elements, and secondary interpretations of medieval documents. Original fifteenth century wills, churchwarden accounts, and inventories can be extremely thorough and difficult to follow; therefore, this research requires careful close reading of a high volume of documents spanning decades. Constructing a visual narrative based solely on written word is challenging, yet ultimately rewarding in cases in which a church’s religious art objects do not survive. Doing so can lead to significant revelations about the realities of late medieval religion.
Prayer of Saint Basil the Great. As I rise from sleep, I thank Thee, O Holy Trinity, for through Thy great goodness and patience Thou hast not been angry with me, an idler and sinner, nor hast Thou destroyed me with mine iniquities, but hast shown Thy usual love for mankind; and when I was prostrate in despair, Thou hast raised me up to keep the morning watch and. O Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ himself, our King and God. Psalm 50. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. The Parish Catechism, Lesson 03: The Public Worship of Almighty God. “For from the rising of the sun even to the going down, my name is great among the Gentiles: and in every place there is sacrifice and there is offered to my name a clean oblation. For my name is great among the Gentiles, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachias 1:11). 20. What is worship? God set aside one day, The Lord’s Day, for His special worship. The apostles and the early Christian Church chose Sunday to be the Lord’s Day because on Sunday Christ arose from the dead and on Sunday the Holy Ghost came down upon the apostles. 23. Do Non-Catholics have an obligation to worship God on the Lord’s Day? All people are commanded by the Third Commandment to worship God on the Lord’s Day. The Church of Almighty God website brings you a wide variety of books, hymns, movies, testimonies and more, all bearing witness to the appearance and work of Christ of the last days—Almighty God. Explore the gospel of the coming of the kingdom of heaven. Subscribe for free to see Q&As and gospel videos on the Lord’s return, how the wise virgins welcome the groom, the path to the heavenly kingdom, etc. Learn more. Subscribe through Messenger. ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father who hast purchased to thyself an universal Church by the precious blood of thy dear Son; Mercifully look upon the same, and at this time so guide and govern the minds of thy servants the Bishops and Pastors of thy flock, that they may lay hands suddenly on no man, but faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons to serve in the sacred Ministry of thy Church. ALMIGHTY God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give commandment to the Apostles, that they should go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature; Grant to us, whom thou didst call into thy Church, a ready will to obey thy Word, and fill us with a hearty desire to make thy way known upon earth, thy saving health.