

Wives, Widows and Wimples Theme 12: Holy days

Document 1

MS 250, f. 207r: Calendar for January, from the Wollaton Antiphonal (c.1430, Latin)

Image only

Document 2

WLC/LM/9, f. 16v: 'Speculum Vitae', lines 1025-1036 (composed mid 14th century, English)

Transcription and translation by Pamela Doohan

*þo þrid is halow wel þyn holy day
þat is þus myche forto say
þou schalt kepe þo sonnedeys clene
And alle solempne festes þat bene
þat are ordeyned thorow holy chirche
Fro alle werkes of seruage to wyrche
þat is to say werkes fro of body
And fro werkes of synne and foly
For synne is a wrecched þruldome
þat somme men haunten be custome
þis comaundement ordeyneþ most
A man to god þo holy gost*

The third [commandment] is to worship well the holy days. That is to say, you shall keep Sundays, and all solemn feasts that are ordained by the Holy Church, unpolluted from all works of service. That is to say, free from physical labour and from acts of sin and wrong-doing, because sin is a wretched enslaver that some men resort to frequently.

This commandment disposes man to God the Holy Ghost, the most.

Document 3

Mi A 6, pp. 63, 64 and 68: Extracts from the household expenditure account of John Levissey, servant to Sir Henry Willoughby (1521, English)

Transcription and translation by Kathryn Summerwill

Item the thwiseday the ij day of aperyll to the wemyn that gaytherd for oure ladys lyght att mydyltun iiij **pence**

Item, the Tuesday the 2nd day of April, to the women that gathered for Our Lady's light at Middleton, 4 pence.

Item for yowre reward to the maydse off powlseworth ij **pence**

Item, for your reward to the maids of Polesworth, 2 pence.

Item to the wemyn off wyllartun that gaytherd for oure ladys lyghtt iiij **pence**

Item, to the women of Wollaton that gathered for Our Lady's light, 4 pence.

Item for yowre Reward to a mayde that gawe yow a garland off Sentt peters ewyn att the bonefyre 1 **pence**

Item, for your reward to a maid that gave you a garland on St Peter's Eve at the bonfire, 1 pence.

Document 4

Pa D 35: Extract from a grant of land in Bunny, Nottinghamshire (3 June 1405, Latin)

Transcription and translation by Kathryn Summerwill

annuatim eidem Isabelle durante tota vita sua decem **et** nonem solidos argenti ad

... annually during the life of the said Isabella 19 shillings of silver at the feasts

festā Annūnciatiōnis **et** Natiuitatis **beate**
Marie virginis
equis porcionibus...

of the Annunciation and the Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary [25 March and 8
September] in equal portions...

... **Datum** apud Boney die **Mercuri**
proxime post **festum**
Ascensionis **domini** Anno regni Regis
Henrici quarti post conquestum **sexto**

... Dated at Bunny on Wednesday after the
feast of the Ascension of the Lord in the
sixth year of the reign of King Henry IV [3
June 1405].