



THE  
EXPERIENCE  
OF WORSHIP  
IN LATE MEDIEVAL  
CATHEDRAL AND  
PARISH CHURCH

# OTHER FABRICS



PhotoJudith Avelingr

Clothed statue of the Virgin, Lady altar, St Teilo's

## *Description*

In addition to the handmade vestments, various other fabrics were required for the enactments. Riddle curtains for the high altar, and primitive clothing for a borrowed statue of the Virgin Mary (placed on the Lady altar before the rood) were made by Louise Edmunds of Cardiff. Altar linen (corporals, credence and altar cloths) was made to very precise dimensions by Mary Collings Church Furnishings of Ipswich. Choir surplices came off the peg from Watts and Co., London; and albs, amices and cassocks were borrowed from Salisbury Cathedral.

### *Altar Linen*

1 cloth for High Altar (Length: 11ft 6ins (3.6 metres), Width: 2ft 7ins (79 cm))  
1 cloth for Jesus Altar (Length: 10ft 6ins (3.2 metres), Width: 2ft 7ins (79 cm))  
1 linen humeral veil / housling cloth (Length: 98 ins (2.5 metres), Width: 20 ins (50 cm))  
2 linen credence cloths (Length: 33 ins (84 cm). Width: 10 ½ ins (27 cm));  
12 Corporals (15.5 ins (40cm) square)  
4 lavabo towels (14 inches (35.5 cm) x 7 inches (18 cm))  
All made in plain white linen by Mary Collings Church Furnishings of Ipswich  
(<http://marycollingscf.co.uk/>)

### *Riddle curtains for high altar*

Plain curtains suspended from brackets and rods to the sides and back of the high altar. Made by Louise Edmunds, using fabric supplied from Mary Collings. (Shown within Vestments description.)

### *Dressing for image of Virgin Mary on Lady altar*

Primitive medieval-style garments made by Louise Edmunds to clothe wooden statue of Virgin, comprising a full-length wool-based blue hooded cloak (shoulder to floor: 67.5 cm) tied round the neck (worn with the hood up), over a brown dress. Medieval evidence indicates that people left fabric of all kinds and colours to clothe statues, including old clothes to be cut down. The general style of the garments draws partly on the fourteenth-century carved image of the Blessed Virgin Mary now at Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridgeshire.

### *Surplices*

12 Old English surplices, fully gathered, long pointed sleeves, terylene and cotton, supplied by Watts and Co., London (<http://www.wattsandco.com/>)

## *Bibliography*

*Late Medieval Liturgies Enacted: The Experience of Worship in Cathedral and Parish Church*, ed. Sally Harper, Paul Barnwell and Magnus Williamson (forthcoming, 2014).

*Note compiled by Sally Harper*

