

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 April 1535 and proved 14 October 1542, of Roger Martyn of Long Melford, great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573) is referred to in the will below as 'Roger Martyn, my brother Lawrence' son, and my godson', and the will indicates that he had already begun his apprenticeship to Humphrey Pakington, whose daughter Lettice he later married. Sir Roger Martyn's two brothers, John and Edward Martyn, are also mentioned in the will.

The testator's first wife was Alice, the daughter of William Forth of Hadleigh, who died on 28 December in either 1520 or 1526. The testator's second wife, Mary, the daughter of Thomas Mountney of Mountnessing, Essex, and widow of Robert Appleton of Waldingfield, also predeceased him.

The testator's only son and heir, Richard Martyn, is said to have died circa 1573. By his first wife, Anne (d.1528), the daughter of Thomas Eden of London, Richard Martyn had a son and heir, Roger Martyn (1526/7–1615), who was a Catholic recusant during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. His second wife was Elizabeth, the daughter of John Crane of Chilton, who died 9 March 1559/60. See *The Visitation of Suffolk*, pp. 18-19, and the entry for Roger Martyn (1526/7–1615), in the *ODNB*.

For the will of the testator's father, Richard Martyn (d.1500), see TNA PROB 11/12/154. For the will of the testator's younger brother, Lawrence Martyn (d.1518), see TNA PROB 11/19/183. For the will of the testator's nephew, Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), father of Humphrey Martyn, addressee of the *Langham Letter*, see TNA PROB 11/56/48. For the will of Humphrey Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/38/212.

RM: Test{amentu}m Rogeri Martyn Armig{eri}

In the name of Jesus, Amen. The 20th day of April in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred thirty and five, I Roger Martyn of Melford th' elder, esquire, being in health, whole mind, and of good remembrance, lauded be to Jesus, make my testament and last will in manner and form following, revoking and annulling all other wills and testaments heretofore made be [=by] me;

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the south aisle in Melford Church which my father caused to be made, before the image or Our Blessed Lady of Pity betwixt my tomb and the place where my last wife lieth buried;

And soon after my death I will there be graved surely in brass and set in the wall against my said tomb the true intent of this my last will, expressing therein the continuance of my

father's priest and mine, keeping of our obit day, paying of the poor people, and for the bead-roll according after my mind as more plainly shall appear afterward;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar in recompense for tithes and offerings forgotten, and to be prayed for, 20s;

Item, I will my burying-day be well and solemnly kept to the pleasure of God & comfort of my soul, and at my said burying-day I will every priest dwelling within the said town of Melford and doing his duty the said day have 6d, and every great clerk within the said town and doing their duty 3d, and every child that can sing in the choir dwelling in the said town to have 2d, and every other child a penny, and every othe[r] priest that cometh to my said burying-day 4d;

Item, furthermore I will that my thirty-day be well and solemnly kept in the best wise to the pleasure of God and comfort of my soul, and every priest, clerk and child to have, doing their duties, in like manner and wise as I assigned them and every of them to have at my burying-day;

Item, I will every day during 30 days immediately after my foresaid burying-day overnight within the foresaid church of Melford Placebo and Dirge be sung solemnly, and every day in the forenoon Commendation and Mass of Requiem in the best wise to the pleasure of God and comfort of my soul, with all the priests that dwell within the foresaid town of Melford and with 4 great clerks, that is to say, the two great clerks that longeth to the parish church, Nicholas Pate and another named be [=by] mine executors, and for lack of any of them some other, and 4 children, and every one of the said priests to have for the said 30 days, doing surely their duties and truly, 13s 4d, and every one of the said great clerks doing their duty to have 6s 8d, and every one of the said 4 children to have 3s 4d, desiring and praying every of them to do their duty so as it may be to the pleasure of God and comfort of my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I will my 30th day be well and solemnly kept to the pleasure of God and comfort of my soul, and that everything be used, ordered & performed to priests, clerks, poor men, women and children in like manner and form as I have before ordered to be done at my burying-day;

Item, I bequeath to the marriage of true poor maidens within the town of Melford ten pounds, to every one of them the day of their said marriage five shillings;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Stanstead 40s;

Item, I will if any godson of mine help to bear me to church, he to have for his labour 12d, and every other that help to bear me to church 8d;

Item, because common doles be prohibit and put away be [=by] Act of Parliament, therefore I have written my mind hereafter how and in what form I will have used at my

burying-day to poor people within the town of Melford, and in like wise at my 30th day for the comfort of my soul;

Also I will before my foresaid 30th day or at the said day be given to poor people dwelling in the towns underwritten certain money as it shall appear hereafter, and to give most where is most need, I require you;

Item, to the poor people in Sudbury 20s;

Item, to the poor people in Lavenham 20s;

Item, to the poor people in Stanstead 13s 4d;

Item, to the poor people in Glemsford 13s 4d;

Item, to the poor people of Acton 10s;

Item, to the poor people of Alpheton 10s;

Item, to the poor people of Borley 10s;

Item, to the poor people of Foxearth 10s;

Item, to the poor people of Liston 6s 8d;

Item, to the poor people of Chilton 6s 8d;

Item, where my father be [=by] his last will assigned to have a priest to sing for him and other for evermore to endure, and he to have for his salary every year 8 marks 6s 8d as in the said will is declared, I will the priest that shall have the said service have every year more for his salary 20s, which maketh ten marks, which so to be paid yearly to the priest for evermore to endure, and the priest that shall have the said service for his time being to be charged to pray for my father and mother[‘s] souls, Richard and Elizabeth; my soul and my wives’ souls, Robert, Alice and Mary; my mother-in-law’s soul, Joan; my brother John’s soul, and the soul of all my father’s children and mine; my godson’s soul, little Roger; Sir James Hewer’s soul, and all Christian souls, and the said priest for his time being to sing yearly every weekday in the week his Mass in Saint James Chapel in Melford, and every holy-day at Melford Church, helping forthward the service of God without it be for especial cause required be [=by] mine heirs to whom I shall give authority for their time to name the priest that shall have the said service as hereafter shall appear, and the said priest always when he singeth or saith Mass after the Gospel of the Mass when he goeth to the lavatory, to say openly *De profundis clamam* [sic?] etc. to th’ end for the souls before-remembered;

Item, I will in any wise that Sir James Hewer, now my father's priest and mine, have the foresaid service during his life in sickness and in health, having truly the said ten marks year[ly] for his salary, and over that, every three year a gown, or 20s therefore;

Item, I will have an obit kept every year in Melford Church the same day I depart out of this world for my father's soul and mine for evermore to endure, and at the same obit day yearly to be given and distributed for our souls 46s 8d & somewhat more if it be requisite in form following, that is to say, to priests, clerks and children within the choir and ringing of the great bell ten shillings, and thirteen shillings in pieces of beef and good loaves made of wheat to be delivered yearly the next day before my said yearly obit day to the poor creatures householders in Melford, to as many of them as is need to give alms to, they being charged to pray for my father's soul and mine and for the souls before-remembered, and 6s 8d to be delivered to twenty couple mean persons, man and wife, and every couple to offer their devotion yearly at the offering of the Mass, and every couple to receive at the said offering 4d, and thus in this form to be ordered and used for evermore;

Item, I will at the said yearly obit day 12 fair tapers of wax be set upon the standers, and 12 poor men and women to hold them about the hearse during the service-time, and every one of them to have a penny;

Item, I will 12 men and women, poor creatures dwelling within the town of Melford, every Friday in the year after the Mass finished, every of them to have a penny, and also every of them to have freely delivered them at their houses yearly a quarter of wood, & this before-written to be paid, continued and delivered to the said poor creatures yearly for evermore, and they to be charged to pray for my father's soul and mine and all the souls before-written;

Item, I will the souls of my father and mother, Richard and Elizabeth, and my soul and the souls of them before-named be remembered in the suffrages of the prayers of the people present every Sunday in the year by the parson of Melford aforesaid or be [=by] his deputy, and every person for his time being to have every year therefore four shillings and God's blessing, and thus to be continued for evermore to endure;

And in performing, executing and fulfilling this my last will and testament before-remembered concerning the salary of the priest, keeping of the obit day, paying the poor people for the bead-roll, and for the tapers of wax in manner and form as before is written, I will my son, Richard, my heir apparent, have to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten for evermore my manors of Stanstead in Stanstead named Overhall and Netherhall with all their appurtenances lying within the county of Suffolk, the said Richard and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten to pay yearly for evermore with part of the yearly rents and farms received be [=by] them and every of them be [=by] reason of the said manors with all and singular th' appurtenances to(?) the foresaid priest and to every other priest that shall have the said service ten marks yearly of lawful money, every half year five marks, also 46s 8d at the foresaid obit day in form aforesaid [+by] year and somewhat more, if it seem requisite, for the comfort of my soul & the souls before-

remembered, and also every Friday to the poor people yearly, and for the bead-roll, and for the tapers of wax yearly in manner as before is written, and all the rest of the yearly rents and farms and other profits coming be [=by] the reason of the foresaid manors with all and singular th' appurtenances, all the premises surely paid and performed yearly in every part, the said Richard and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten to take to their own uses for the true performance of the premises;

And I will that all my feoffees that stand now feoffees to mine use in the said manors or in any part of the premises, that they stand and be feoffees to such use as it is expressed be [=by] this my will, and what time all my said feoffees be dead saving two or three, then I will those two or three shall make a new estate from them to another certain number of other men and men children named be [=by] him or them that at that time shall have the receipt of the yearly rents and farms of the premises to th' use and performance of this my will, and according to the same in like manner and form before expressed at such time as they shall be required be [=by] him or them that at that time have the receipt of the yearly rents and farms of the premises according to this my will, and thus to be used, ordered and performed for evermore be [=by] him or them that shall have yearly receipt of the rents and farms of the said manors with th' appurtenances according to this my will as they will answer afore God at the dreadful day of doom;

And if it chance, as God forbid, the said Richard, my son, and all his heirs of his body lawfully begotten to die without heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, then I will the said manors with th' appurtenances remain in use to Roger Martyn, son of Lawrence Martyn, and my godson, and to th' heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, he and his said heirs males of his body lawfully begotten to receive yearly the yearly rents and farms and other profits coming be [=by] reason of the said manors with th' appurtenances, paying yearly with part of the receipt to the priest for his time being his salary ten marks as before is remembered, and for all other things in like manner and form as I have heretofore assigned my son, Richard, and his heirs of his body lawfully begotten to do;

And over that, I will the said Roger, my godson, and his said heirs males pay more yearly with part of the yearly rents and farms of the said manors to other 12 poor men and women within the town of Melford, every Friday in the year to every of them 1d, and thus to be continued for evermore to endure;

And all the rest of the yearly rents and farms and other profits coming yearly by reason of the said manors with th' appurtenances, the said Roger Martyn and his heirs males to take to their own uses for their true diligence & performance of the premises;

And if it chance the same Roger to die without heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, then I will John Martyn, brother of the said Roger, and his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten have like authority in the said manors with th' appurtenances with like charges and profit as I have before assigned to the said Roger, my godson;

And if the said John Martyn chance to die without heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, then I will Edward Martyn, brother to the said John, and his heirs males of his

body lawfully begotten have like authority in the said manors with th' appurtenances with like charges & profits in every condition as I have before assigned Roger Martyn and his said heirs males to do and perform;

And if the said Edward fortune to die without heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, then I will Margaret Barfott, my brother John's daughter and heir, and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten have like authority in the said manors with th' appurtenances with like charges and profits in every condition as I have before assigned Roger Martyn and his heirs males to do and perform;

And specially I require and desire mine executors and supervisors that if my mind and will before-written concerning the continuance yearly of a priest, keeping of my year-day and paying yearly to poor people for evermore cannot be made sure and perfect to continue in sure manner and form as it is then expressed be [=by] that means, then my said executors and supervisors and every of them be [=by] their advices, with such counsel as they will take to them, to make sure and perfect that the said priest services, year-day keeping, and paying of the poor people may surely continue for evermore after my mind there expressed, and what they do or cause to be done for the said purpose, I affirm it for my last will, and that this may be done as shortly as it may be, and put in a surety for the comfort of my soul and the souls before-remembered, and for the surety of my son, Richard, and of his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, as my trust is in them, and I trust Almighty God shall reward them for their pain and good mind taken herein;

Provided always the said Sir James Hewer, now my father's priest and mine, have the manor called Bromptons with th' appurtenances for his salary yearly according to the lease I have made him if he will, or he to be paid his salary yearly every half year as before is written without delay in any wise;

Provided also if the foresaid Roger Martyn, my brother Lawrence' son, and my godson, or his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, or any of his foresaid brethren or their heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten, do not execute and perform their authority in everything as before is written when their course and authority come to them according to my will, then I will that he that maketh default nor his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten never after to meddle with any part of the said authority given to them by this my will, but he that is next in course after my will to have the foresaid authority thooy(?), and thus in this form every one to take his authority when his course chanceth after the order and course of this my will;

Also I require and charge my said godson, Roger Martyn, my said brother Lawrence' son, and his heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and also his said brethren and their heirs males of their bodies lawfully begotten, and all other to whom I have given authority be [=by] this my will in paying of the priest and for all other things before-written, that every one of them, when they have their authority, perform surely every part of the premises according to my foresaid will as they and every of them will answer before God at the dreadful day of doom;

Item, I bequeath to my son, Richard, all my messuages, tenements, lands, meadows, pastures, rents & services with th' appurtenances which I have or any man to mine use hath within the town and fields of Melford, Alpheton, Glemsford, Hadleigh and Acton within the county of Suffolk, except such parcels as heretofore I have bequeathed and hereafter shall bequeath to any person or persons, to have and to hold all the foresaid messuages and all other the premises with th' appurtenances, except before excepted, unto the said Richard and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs when it shall seem and appear no more to be, then I will the said Richard Martyn or his executors for his comfort and mine shall after(?) good advice and counsel of sure friends, sell all the foresaid messuages and all the premises with th' appurtenances, except the place I now dwell in with that is longing and adjoining thereto as I now keep it, and the money coming be [=by] reason of the said sale, I will it be disposed in this form:

Two parts thereof to the poor creatures in Melford in bread & flesh every year against Christmas, and in Lenten, herring red and white by the discretion of him or them that the said Richard shall assign, and the third part thereof to the comfort of Melford Church, Saint James Chapel in Melford, and highways, and thus to be truly used as long time as the money will serve that cometh of the sale of the premises;

And the foresaid messuage that I now dwell in and all that adjoining thereto as I now occupy and keep it, I will for default of heirs of Richard Martyn of my son's body lawfully begotten, remain in like manner and form as I before have assigned my manors of Stanstead to do, provided always that the said Richard take for his comfort of the said sale that is expedient for him and for the performance of his mind, and comfort of his soul and mind, and for the souls before-remembered;

Item, I bequeath to the said Richard, my son, all my plate, brass and pewter estilments [=utensils?] and implements of household except that I intend to bequeath hereafterwards to any person or persons as hereafter shall more plainly appear;

Also I will all my hangings, testers, curtains, featherbeds, blankets, coverings of beds as be now in use within any part of my place where I now dwell go forth and be used be [=by] him and be [=by] every of them that I have given authority in the said place for their time according to my will, without removing of any part thereof except it be to change and put a better in the same place thereof;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth, my daughter-in-law, one half of all th' apparel that was my late wife Mary's, and the half of all other things that longeth to the body of the foresaid Mary and lieth within the closet that she occupied be [=by] her life;

Item, I give unto the said Elizabeth five marks in money;

Item, I bequeath to Roger Martyn, my son Richard's son and my godson, my manor called Mary Hall with th' appurtenances with all manner of lands, meadows and pastures now in the farm of Richard Potyer lying in the town of Walter Belchamp and in other

towns next adjoining in the county of Essex, and also my place called Garneyes with all other lands, meadows and pastures with all and singular th' appurtenances which Alice Fiske, widow, now farmeth, to have and to hold the foresaid manor and all other the premises with th' appurtenances to the said Roger, my godson, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such heirs the foresaid manor and other the premises with th' appurtenances after the decease of the said Roger to remain to my said son, Richard, in like manner and form as I have assigned before my message and other the premises lying in Melford and in other towns to do, as before appeareth in the bequest made to my said son, Richard;

Item, I bequeath to the said Roger a hundred pounds in money, a standing up with a cover gilt, a great pounced piece with a cover parcel gilt, a great mazer with a rose in the midst, and 12 silver spoons with knops gilt, which money and plate I will be delivered to him at his age of 21 years, or sooner if it may be for his comfort and his advantage deemed and thought expedient be [=by] mine executors and his sure loving friends;

Also I bequeath to him one of my chains of gold with a cross of gold, which to be delivered him at the time before limited;

And if it chance, as God forbid, the said Roger to die before the delivery to him of the premises according to this my will and testament, then I will thone half of everything that I have bequeathed him be disposed for my soul and the souls before-remembered, and the other half my said son, Richard, to have to his own use, and in any wise I require and charge mine executors that my said godson, Roger, be well and surely used both in boarding, clothing and putting forth in learning for his comfort hereafter with the yearly profits of the premises bequeathed to him till he come to the age or time before limited, as my singular trust is in them;

Item, I bequeath to my Lord of Bury of the money he oweth me, which is forty pounds, ten pounds thereof, so he pay the rest to mine executors, trusting he will remember my soul and be good lord to mine heir;

Item, I bequeath to the Master of the College of Sudbury, Mr Richard Eden, and to the use of the same College forever, my garden that I bought of Guyblion, so they keep an obit yearly for my soul and the said Master's soul for evermore, and give at the same obit to five poor people, to every of them a penny;

Item, I bequeath to him a pounced piece with a cover parcel gilt for a remembrance;

Item, I bequeath to Master Thomas Eden, my son's brother-in-law, a gilt flat piece with a cover for a token;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Thomas Hoor 40s in money, trusting surely he will remember my soul, which money to be delivered unto him within a year immediately after my death;

Item, I will if my sister Dyke hereafter be minded to dwell in my place that I bought of th' executors of Johanne Foot called 'the Cocke', being against my place where I now dwell, then I will she have it during her life with the gardens and crofts next adjoining thereto, and five marks in money;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret Barfott of Hadleigh 40s in money, and to every one of her children 26s 8d, and she to have the place and lands that Hugh Grene farmeth immediately after my death for evermore to her and to her heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and the plate lying in the pocket in my counter, this plate delivered to her with the pocket be [=by] me, Roger Martyn, and also the foresaid place and lands delivered her, as it appeareth be [=by] deed indented whereof she hath thone part;

Item, I bequeath to Roger Martyn, my brother Lawrence' son, and my godson, twenty marks of the money that his master, Humphrey Pakington, oweth me, if he live to th' end of his apprenticeship, and he to have it immediately after th' end of his apprenticeship if he be then alive;

Item, paid him thereof ten pounds;

Item, I bequeath to John Martyn, my said brother Lawrence' son, five marks of the money that the said Humphrey Pakington oweth me if the said John be alive at th' end of the said Roger Martyn['s] apprenticeship;

Item, I bequeath to Edward Martyn, my foresaid brother Laurence Martyn['s] son, other five marks of the money that the said Humphrey Pakington oweth me if the said Edward be alive at th' end of the foresaid Roger Martyn['s] apprenticeship;

Item, I bequeath to every godchild of mine that beareth my name four shillings or a pair of sheets being of the said value, to be delivered to every of them at their age of 21 years or at their marriage;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret Byrd the place that Hylder dwelt in for term of her life, keeping the reparations thereof and paying the yearly rent therefore;

Item, I bequeath to William Hilder, my servant, the tenement that Little(?) Hamond dwelt in with the garden thereto annexed for term of his life, keeping the reparations thereof, and 21s 4d in money, six bushels of wheat and a coomb malt;

Item, I bequeath to Besse Payn the tenement that she now dwelleth in with my garden thereunto annexed [+for] term of her life, keeping the reparations thereof, two bushels wheat and a coomb malt;

Item, I bequeath to Nicholas, my servant, in money 26s 8d, and if he dwell still in Melford with my son, and will help forward at Jesus Mass every Friday after his coming, and to the children, then I will he have every year for so doing 16s 8d, trusting he will

surely pray for my soul, also the tenement that Adams now dwelleth in during his life, keeping sufficiently the reparations thereof;

Item, I give unto Roger Cowper, my godson, in money ten shillings;

Item, I bequeath to Peter, mine apprentice, in money 20s, and the tenement that he dwelleth in during his life, keeping the reparations;

Item, to Alice Jermyn in money 10s, and my tenement that young Goodwyn dwelleth in during her life;

Item, to Anne Tailor, widow, my tenement that Lightman dwelleth in during her life, and 10s in money;

Item, I bequeath to Bess Cooper, my sister Dyke[‘s] daughter, a gown or a kirtle of my late wife Mary[‘s] lying in the chest locked, and 20s in money;

Also I will that all such persons as appeareth in my book or be [=by] obligations that oweth any debt to me or to my father, that they and every of them that be not able nor of power to pay no part of their debt, then I will they be clearly discharged, and every one of them never to be vexed nor troubled be [=by] mine executors nor by no man be [=by] them for any part of their debt, but they and every of them to be required to pray for my father’s soul and mine and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to Hugh Sargeaunte and to Alice, his wife and my kinswoman, my place with the garden sometime Brytwes, to have to them and to th’ heirs of the body of the same Alice lawfully begotten;

Also I discharge the said Hugh of all the debt he oweth me, for the comfort of him and his said wife;

Item, I bequeath to her a gown or a kirtle of my late wife’s that my son will deliver her, and 20s in money;

Item, I bequeath to John Cowper and his wife the place that he now dwelleth in, sometime Middleton’s, for term of their lives, they finding sufficient reparations and pay[ing] the yearly rent;

Item, I bequeath to my godson Baker’s son of Sudbury, 20s;

Item, I will that all manner of gifts, bequests, grants and discharges made by me to divers persons as appeareth hereafter with mine own hand be surely observed, performed and fulfilled to every person there named according to my mind there expressed, as my trust is in them;

Item, I will if any man or woman after my death claim any debt of me, or for to be restored or satisfied for any cause, and prove their claim true be [=by] writing or be [=by] substantial witness, then they and every such one in so doing to be paid, restored and satisfied according to right and conscience;

Item, I will in any wise that all such evidences and deeds which I have now in my keeping [+concerning?] divers strange persons, that they be delivered to every one of them that ought to have them of right as soon after my death as it may be reasonable;

The residue of all my goods and debts which of right to me belongeth, my father's will and testament and mine clearly fulfilled and performed in every part thereof, I will my said son, Richard, have the foresaid residue to his own use, trusting he will remember me in everything for the comfort of my soul as a good son ought to do for his father, which foresaid Richard, my son, I ordain & make my chief executor, and Sir James Hewer, my priest, to be mine executor with him, and everything that the said Sir James shall do concerning my said last will and testament be always with consent & agreement of my said son;

Also I desire and specially request my trusty and loving friends Mr Richard Eden, clerk and the Master of the College of Sudbury, Robert Crane th' elder, esquire, Thomas Eden, gentleman, my son[^s] brother-in-law, and my cousin Edward Colman of Little Waldingfield to be my supervisors of this my last will and testament, and they and every of them to give their best advice and counsel to mine executors in every cause & causes concerning my last will and testament at every time when they or any of them shall be required be [=by] mine executors, with such counsel as they will take to them if it be requisite, so as my foresaid will & testament may be surely used, performed and fulfilled, and to continue after my mind expressed therein, and I bequeath to every of my said supervisors, for their good minds and diligence showed and performed in the premises according to my mind, ten marks of lawful money;

Memorand{um}. Whenas I minded to have a common dole at my burying-day which is now prohibited by Act of Parliament, therefore I will at my burying-day be distributed and given to poor creatures dwelling in Melford three pounds in form following:

To every man and woman that be blind, lame and puer [=poor?] in age, or lie bedrid, 4d;

To every other poor man and woman dwelling within the said town, 2d;

And to every poor child dwelling within the said town, 1d;

And if any part of the said money be spared, to give it where is most need;

And thus in the form and order in everything to be used, done and ordered at my 30th day, and the said creatures to be required specially to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Also I will every year immediately after my death always in Lenten there be given to poor men and women and children dwelling within the town of Melford in white herring and red to the sum of 20s, and so to be used and done every Lenten during 20 years immediately after my death, and the said poor creatures to be required to pray for my soul, my father's soul and mother's soul, and for the soul of Geoffrey Foott and Joan his wife['s] soul, and all Christian souls;

Also where I lately agreed with John Clark that he should have the tenement lying be [=by] his place sometime Richard Gent['s] for ten pounds, to be paid every year after 20s till it be paid, I will of the said ten pounds th' heirs of the said Richard Gent, which be Mr John Mylborne['s] daughter and John Smyth['s] daughter, every of them to have of the said ten pounds five marks, and five marks rest to be used and ordered be [=by] mine executors and supervisors for the soul of the said Richard Gent, his father and mother['s] souls, and Alice, his sister['s] soul, provided always if the said heirs can prove that the said tenement were the said Alice Gent['s], then they to have the whole ten pounds before-written;

Item, I bequeath and give my great silver censers lying in my chest in my counter to Melford Church to serve to the worship of Jesus for evermore, & my soul to be remembered therefore in the suffrages of the parishioners;

Item, I will every year the Monday next after the feast of Saint Thomas th' Apostle before Christmas a solemn High Dirge and Mass to be kept for the souls of me and my two wives, Alice and Mary, with all the priests in Melford, two great clerks and four children, and every priest to have 6d, and every great clerk 3d, and every of the said children 1d, and alms to be given at the said obit day to six score poor householders six score good loaves of wheat, and to every of the said householders a penny, and thus to be used and performed every year during twenty years immediately after my death;

Item, I bequeath to Mr Audeley, now my Lord Chancellor, for a poor remembrance a great salt of silver parcel gilt lying in my counter in the chest I sit on;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Thomas Jermyn, knight, for a poor remembrance, my carving great knives with gilt hafts;

Item, I bequeath to my Lady Milborne for a poor remembrance a ring of gold with a stone therein, and two old nobles;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin Baker's wife of Sudbury a coarse girdle, the harness thereon silver and gilt, for a remembrance;

Item, I bequeath to my sister Russe of Ipswich a ring of gold for a remembrance;

Item, I bequeath to Jermyn of Stanstead, my baillie, and to his wife, for a remembrance 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the hermit now lying and being at Saint James' Chapel in Melford an angel noble of gold for to buy him therewith a coat, and so to have every year ten years immediately after my death;

Item, I bequeath to John Clark and his wife 40s, trusting they will pray for me;

Item, I bequeath to my godson, their son, 12s 4d;

Memorandum: Whereas John Smyth of Bury, executor to Robert Brett, oweth me for the debt of the said Robert Brett £12, if the said John will pay thereof to mine executors six pounds without any further suit, I will he be discharged of the rest in discharging of his conscience and the soul of the said Robert Brett, and they to have the said obligation delivered that the said Robert standeth bounden in;

Memorandum: Whereas Robert Plame, my farmer, oweth me of arrearages of farm, as it appeareth in the farm book, I will he be discharged of thone half thereof, trusting he will pray for my soul, and also I will he be discharged of the bond that he is bounden in to me for surety for John Wyncoll;

Item, I will the lands, tenements, meadows and pastures late in the tenure and farm of John Cowper lying in Brogstrete(?) in Melford and Alpheton, my son, Richard Martyn, have to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to remain according to the tail as it appeareth be [=by] the deed tail;

Item, I will Sir Robert, now my priest, have my service and be my priest during his life, and have his salary according to my will, and also his chamber & his garden as he hath now, and half a hundred wood delivered him at his chamber, and twenty shillings in money, trusting he will pray surely for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Edward Tyrrell that now teacheth and serveth my godson, Roger Martyn, 20s, trusting he will pray for me;

Item, I bequeath to Mrs Worceter of Norwich, widow, six angels nobles and the ring on my little finger, to be delivered to her or to her assigns within a quarter of a year next after my death;

These being witness: Mr Richard Eden, Archdeacon of Middlesex; Robert Crane, esquire; Thomas Eden, gentleman; Master Colman; John Cardell; Sir Robert, chaplain; and Nicholas Hardy, with other.

Probatum fuit testamentum coram domino apud London xiiii^{to} die mensis
Octobris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo secundo
Iuramento Richardi Martyn Executoris in huiusmodi testamento
non innotuit. Ac approbatum et insinatum Commissario fuit admistracio
et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti
pro executori De bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario &c conficiendo

Necnon de plano et vero compoto redd{endo} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei eu{a}ngelia in persona Iohannis Adams Notarij publici procuratoris &c Iurat{i}

[=The testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at London on the 14th day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-second by the oath of Richard Martyn, the executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels, in the person of John Adams, notary public, proctor etc., to well etc., and to prepared a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]